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THE ROLE OF THE 18TH ASIAN GAME IN THE PEACE OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA

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ABSTRAK

Jurnal ini mengkaji tentang peran Asia Game ke-18 sebagai alat diplomasi dalam konflik semenanjung Korea tahun 2018, khususnya dalam mempromosikan perdamaian di Semenanjung Korea. Jurnal ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan dan menganalisis efektivitas olahraga atau Olimpiade yang berafiliasi dengan Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) sebagai alat pemersatu dalam mendorong peluang reunifikasi di Semenanjung Korea. Asian Games ke-18, di sisi lain, telah memainkan peran penting dalam menyatukan Korea Utara dan Selatan menjadi satu kesatuan di bawah bendera yang sama dalam berbagai cara yang berdampak positif bagi perdamaian kedua negara. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif, seperti studi pustaka dan triangulasi, untuk mengumpulkan data. Pendekatan deskriptif-analitis digunakan untuk mengumpulkan dan menganalisis data. Analisis penelitian ini menggunakan teori diplomasi olahraga untuk menguji efektivitas olahraga dalam menyelesaikan konflik di Semenanjung Korea. Karena keadaan semenanjung Korea saat ini belum sepenuhnya menghasilkan cita - cita reunifikasi kedua negara, teori diplomasi olahraga dapat mengidentifikasi faktor-faktor yang mendukung berkurangnya intensitas perang dingin Semenanjung Korea. Salah satu faktornya adalah peran olah raga sebagai alat diplomasi olahraga, yang telah meningkatkan peluang untuk mempromosikan perdamaian dan resolusi konflik untuk mencapai kesepakatan damai antara kedua pihak dan pada akhirnya mengarah pada reunifikasi.

Kata kunci: Asian Game ke 18, Diplomasi Olahraga, Semenanjung Korea, Reunifikasi

ABSTRACT

This journal examines the role of the 18th Asia Game as a diplomatic tool in the Korean peninsula conflict in 2018, specifically in promoting peace on the Korean Peninsula. This journal aims to describe and analyze the effectiveness of sports or Olympics affiliated with the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) as a unifying tool in pushing for reunification opportunities on the Korean Peninsula. The 18th Asian Games, on the other hand, has played an essential role in uniting North and South Korea into one unit under the same flag in a variety of ways that have had a positive impact on peace between the two countries. This study employs qualitative research methods, such as literature review and triangulation, to collect data. A descriptive-analytical approach was used to collect and analyze data. This study's analysis employs sports diplomacy theory to examine the effectiveness of sports in resolving conflicts on the Korean Peninsula. Because the current state of the Korean peninsula has not entirely resulted in the ideals of the two countries' reunification, the theory of sports diplomacy

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can identify the factors that support the reduced intensity of the Korean Peninsula's cold war. One of the factors is the role of sport as a tool of sports diplomacy, which has increased opportunities for promoting peace and conflict resolution to reach a peace agreement between the two parties and eventually lead to reunification.

Keywords: The 18th Asian Game, Sports Diplomacy, Korean Peninsula, Reunification

BACKGROUND

The Asian Games is the largest sports event in the Asian continent which was first organized by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). This sporting event is held every four years with athletes from all over Asia. The Asian Games aim to unite the countries on the Asian continent after World War II and make the nations on the Asian continent have a new world order according to the aspirations and desires of each country. The first host and the Asian Games were held for the first time in 1951, which took place in India, and South Korea had hosted the Asian Games twice, namely in 2002, which took place in Busan and 2014 in Incheon, while North Korea has never hosted the Asian Game event.

The event was organized by the Asian Games Federation (AGF) from the first games in New Delhi, India, from 1951 to 1978. Since 1982 the organization shifted to OCA after the AGF disbanded. The Asian Games are recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and are described as the second multi-sport event after the Olympics. The symbol of the Asian Games is the sixteen-pointed sun which is the official logo of the Asian Games and is affixed to the logo of the Asian Olympic Council.

When World War II ended with the defeat of Japan, the entire Korean population wanted the formation of a unified, independent state, but instead, what happened was the division of Korea as a result of the Cold War between the Eastern and Western blocs. The division of the Korean State into two and the establishment of separate governments in the South and North eventually led to a civil war, namely the Korean war (1950-1953). The Korean War was a by-product of the ideological conflict within the country and was considered a war that represented the conflict between the Western and Eastern Blocs.

The Korean Peninsula is an area located in Northeast Asia which has historically been an important area in the region as an area that connects Northeast Asia with the outside world. Korea's geographical position has made Korea historically crucial from a strategic point of view. The Korean Peninsula is located in the middle of three major countries, namely Japan, China, and Russia. On June 25, 1950, a war began between South Korea supported by the United States and North Korea funded by the Soviet Union. At that time, 75,000 North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel between the two countries. In July 1950, in the first era of the Cold War, American troops started a war on behalf of South Korea and against the forces of international communism.

After conducting several battles, anxiety arose from the American camp, which then devised a plan to carry out a kind of ceasefire with North Korea because the United States was worried that this war would get bigger and involve ruling countries such as Russia and China so that it gave the potential to become a World War III. Until July 1953, the Korean War ended in a short time, but this war had a profound impact and scars because the victims of this war were far more than in World War II.

However, the end of the arms war between the two countries has not entirely stopped the conflict because the two countries still have a high level of sensitivity to each other. The battle on the Korean Peninsula continues to experience ebb and flow to this day. The focus of this study is to explain the role of the18th Asian Games in enhancing peace on the Korean Peninsula?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Sport Diplomacy

Diplomacy is an effort to carry out an activity in the form of ways in which the state, through officially appointed representatives, conducts a dialogue in a meeting with the coordination of one actor with another actor, or more than two actors who have specific interests and strive to achieve it. These activities take the form of private talks by exchanging views, approaches, visits, and often even threats and other related activities. Diplomacy has a close relationship with foreign policy because diplomacy is the implementation of foreign policy carried out by trained official officials. In many countries, foreign policy is designed and formulated by the minister of foreign affairs and the ministry of foreign affairs staff. The implementation of bilateral diplomacy and Unilateral action is generally carried out by diplomats and representatives stationed abroad and in international organizations.

In addition, according to Barston, the definition of diplomacy is the management of relations between countries or between countries and other international relations actors. A description in which diplomacy represents political, economic, and military pressure on countries involved in diplomatic activities, formulated in the exchange of requests and concessions between the negotiators "to achieve their national interests.

In expansion, Sports Diplomacy is additionally utilized by numerous nations as a delicate control for progressing universal relations by advancing intelligence and compromise and indeed avoiding conflict. One of them is that China and the United States joined together, which employments ping pong strategy. In December 1972, a report from the Télévision Suisse Romande, entitled "l'amitiésino-Suisse," related the visit of ten Chinese ping-pong players (men and ladies) in Switzerland. Curiously, this visit was organized one year after the celebrated visit to China by the Joined United States ping-pong (table tennis) group. The way is better known as the scene of "ping-pong diplomacy." These demonstration games made a difference in setting up contact between two nations with no conciliatory relations.

Sports Diplomacy is defined as representative and diplomatic activities carried out by sports actors through sporting events facilitated by the state to attract attention, provide information, and form an excellent image to achieve a country's foreign policy goals. Sports diplomacy is carried out with the participation of sports actors and the government, where the government of a country usually organizes international sporting events through a negotiation process. In international sports competitions, athletes who compete carry their country's name and become government representatives in the sporting event. Through sports diplomacy, a country gets the opportunity to improve its image, status, and economy at the international level, and also as a tool to spread a political message. Also, Barry Sanders argues that Sport as Public Diplomacy is a strong and great instrument in the mission to create a good reputation in international relations, disseminate information, and be the core of public diplomacy.

On the other hand, sport is also considered the most widely used forum by many countries because it is very effective in creating positive messages behind implementing a sports competition. Sport is also used as a strategy for well-planned public diplomacy to provide significant opportunities and results to achieve the interests of the state through sports. Sports diplomacy is also a reflection of international instruments and the concept of Soft Power. Sport is considered very effective in achieving national interests because sports diplomacy uses massive, peaceful, and civilized ways.

RESEARCH METHOD

A descriptive approach and a qualitative study strategy were utilized to explain the phenomenon in more elements in the case of The Role of the 18th Asian Games in the Peace of the Korean Peninsula. The descriptive method explained the phenomenon in worldwide relations by answering who, what, where, and when the phenomenon occurs. This approach described the phenomenon in an orderly, objective, and designated manner. The information had been accrued from literature studies from journals, articles, news, and most of the data is from mass media. To analyze the facts of this paper, the researcher evaluation and analyze it then force a simple explanation about the phenomenon Role of the 18th Asian Games in the Peace of the Korean Peninsula. There are not many journals discussing this topic, but several journals discuss the role of sports diplomacy in uniting North and South Korea with a focus on the 2018 Winter Olympics written by Philip Arthur.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The History of Asian Game

The Asian Game is a regional sport formed by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) for male and female athletes for Asian countries in collaboration with the International Olympic Committee. Besides that, the Asian Game is also known to have another name, namely Asiad. Like the Olympics, the Asian Games are also held every four years by following the sport's standards, and various marks are stored in the Asian Games. Athletics and swimming are the primary sports; what makes it different from the Olympics is that there are sports that show the diversity of sports cultures from Asian countries, such as sepaktakraw, a sports game from Southeast kabaddi from South Asia, and wushu from East Asia. The total sports held initially were six branches, which eventually grew to 38 sports that were first held in South Korea in 2002. However, the number of these branches can change according to the decision of the Asia Olympic Council, as happened in Asian Games 2018 where the addition of sports branches to 39. The source of this information is from several articles and my knowledge.

Before the history of the formation of the Asian Games, there was an event known as the Far Eastern Championship Games, which was held around 1912 in a prepared location between Imperial Japan, the Philippines, and China. The Far Eastern Games were first held in Manila in 1913 with six participating countries. After that, ten times, The Far Eastern Games were held until 1934. In that year, China withdrew as a participant because Japan forced the Manchu Empire to participate in the Games. As a consequence, The Far Eastern Games 1938 was canceled, and the organization ceased to exist.

After World War II, Asian countries began to succeed in reclaiming their sovereignty. They gave rise to the ambition to want a stage for the competition which aims to show the strength of Asian countries without violence. The 1948 London Olympics became one of the places where representatives from India Guru Dutt Sondhi gave a proposal to the contingent leaders of Asian countries to organize a sport on the scale of the Asian continent. As a result of the discussion, all contingent dreamers agreed to the proposal and formed the Asian Athletics Federation. In 1949, the Asian Athletics Federation was officially formed and continued as the Asian Games Federation. The first Asian Games took place in New Delhi, India, in 1951, and as a result of the agreement, the Asian Games would be held every four years.

At the beginning of the implementation, several problems occurred; the 4th year, which coincided with the 1962 Asian Games, experienced problems. First, the host, Indonesia, refused to allow the participation of Israel and Taiwan due to political and religious issues. As a result, the IOC withdrew its support from the Games and excluded Indonesia as a member of the IOC. Likewise, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF), and International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) also withdrew their recognition of the Asian Games.

In 1970 South Korea canceled its plans to host because of the national security crisis. Still, the main reason was the financial crisis which forced Thailand, the previous host, to organize the Asian Games again in Bangkok using funds provided by South Korea. Before Thailand became the host year for the second Asian Game, South Korea had offered their neighboring country, namely Japan, to host South Korea at that time. However, Japan refused because of the Expo '70 event in Osaka.

Problems occurred again in 1973. This time the dispute arose after the United States and several other countries recognized the sovereignty of the People's Republic of China. Then, in 1974 in Tehran, the Asian Games realized the participation of China, North Korea, and Mongolia and allowed Israel to participate despite opposition from Arab countries. The problem grew when Taiwan was allowed to participate even though its status was abolished at the Federation's meeting on November 16, 1973. Having solved the problems of the previous issues does not mean the problems are solved because new problems arise where Pakistan and Bangladesh conflict with each other. At the 1997 Asian Games, Pakistan decided to cancel its intention to host the Asian Games. It made it necessary to change the host country, and Thailand again offered to replace Pakistan as the host of the 8th Asian game.

Then, at the 10th Asian Games in Seoul, South Korea, an unexpected tragedy occurred were a spy detonated a bomb behind a vending machine at Gimpo International Airport, killing five people. Along with the tragedy of the bombing, North Korea, as one of the participants of the Asian Game, they are confirmed that it would send athletes and cheerleaders. There is a problem of trust between the two countries where South Korea is wary of the presence of North Korean representatives in this Asian Game. South Korea's attitude is not without reason because North Korea has released extraordinary missiles and rockets in the last few weeks. Of course, it has made South Korea worried about its country's security.

Finally, the two countries decided to hold a joint meeting to discuss North Korea's participation in the Asian Games. However, leaving without an answer, the South Korean delegation explained that they would remain vigilant if North Korea participated in the Asian Games this time.

In 1994 the Asian Games included the former Soviet Union countries, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, for the first time. It is also the first time establishing the Asian Games to be held outside the host country's capital. However, Iran was suspended from the Asian Games because of the 1990 Gulf War, while North Korea boycotted it due to political issues. 1998 marked the fourth time in history that the Asian Games were held in Bangkok, Thailand. The fourth opening ceremony was born on December 6 and was opened by King Bhumibol. In 2002, South Korea was again appointed to host, but the venue was moved to Busan. The Asian Games this time became a new history in its 14 years of implementation where 44 members of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) took part in the biggest sporting event on the Asian continent. Afghanistan and North Korea are also members of the 44 members.

All 45 members under the OCA are eligible to take part in the history of the formation of the Asian Games. According to OCA membership, Egypt did not participate in the Asian Games but participated in the All Africa Games. Some countries participating in the European Games rather than the Asian Games are partly from Asia, such as Turkey, Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Cyprus, Armenia, Israel. Taiwan, Palestine, Hong Kong, and Macau participated in the Asian Games as members of the OCA. Due to its constantly uncertain political status, Taiwan has participated in the Asian Games as Chinese Taipei since 1990. Macau is also allowed to join as a member of NOC even though the IOC does not recognize it at the Olympics.

In 2007 OCA President Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah rejected a proposal to allow Australia to participate. He stated that Australia would bring good marks to the Asian Games. Still, it would be unfair to the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) because Australia is a member of New Zealand and has participated in the Pacific Games since 2015. Only seven countries have participated in all editions of the Asian Games, namely India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Thailand. Having a peace mission, holding the Asian Games is also part of the realization of sports diplomacy, where all participating countries have the same opportunity to build diplomatic relations between participating countries.

In addition, all countries also have the opportunity to introduce their country through sports diplomacy to gain a good reputation in the international world. Therefore, this sports diplomacy has a considerable impact on the countries that implement it. Thus, making sports competitions always have great value for countries that can give a good image to their country or countries that can win an international sports competition.

The Act of Asian Game ke-18 to Defuse in Korean Peninsula Conflict

As we know, the prolonged conflict between North and South Korea has always attracted the attention of the world community. The two countries have a history that can be said to be related to each other. These two countries are also located in the same region, namely the Asian Continent. In addition, North and South Korea are registered in the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). Thus, these two countries have the right to participate in the Asian Games, which is the largest sports competition in Asia pioneered by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). The Asian Game is one of the very prestigious competitions globally because it is participated by all countries on the Asian continent. The Asian Game is the 2nd largest sports competition after the Olympics, so this prestigious sporting event always attracts the world's attention.

After the Asian Game competition, North Korea participated as a participant, and South Korea, which also played a role as a participating country, was elected several times. As the host of Asian Games, the Korean Peninsula conflict not only occurs in the military realm, but problems between the two countries also occur in this competition, where there is a trust issue between the two countries shows that the relationship between the two countries is always in horizontal conflict. However, an unforgettable moment occurred when the 18th Asian game was held. The Asian Game, which has a mission to build peace on the Asian continent, carried out its mission successfully even though it only had a temporary nature: to unite North and South Korea into a single unit, namely Korea. Therefore, this research will describe the three roles of the 18th Asian game on August 18, 2018, in easing the prolonged conflict on the Korean Peninsula, along with their descriptions;

First, after experiencing various conflicts in the military context and disputes between the two countries in sports competitions, in this 18th Asian game, the two countries can be brought together in a peaceful situation and both have good intentions to defuse conflicts that often occur. In this case, the organizers of the Asian Games, namely the host country and the Olympic Council of Asia as the parent federation of the Asian Games, are seeking the moment of this competition to be a way to achieve world peace, especially in the Asian region.

Second, this time there is an unprecedented history of the Asian Game because, for the first time, there will be three Korean countries competing in the 18th Asian Game competition. North Korea and South Korea joined to unite under the same flag, namely the Korean Unification Flag. Some athletes from North and South Korea will connect as Team Korea in the parade of the opening ceremony of the 18th Asian game and the merging of three sports marked in the 18th Asian game. Thus, the total contingent of countries participating in the 18th Asian game has also increased to 46 countries. The three sports that the Korean team will participate in are basketball (women), dragon boat (men and women), and rowing (men LM4-, LM8+, and women's LW2X).

This moment continues to be the world's attention at the beginning of 2018 despite the unification of North and South Korea in the Winter Olympics competition held on February 9, 2018, in Pyeongchang. South Korea. However, in this competition, the Korean team only participated in one sport, namely ice hockey (women), by fielding 12 athletes representing North Korea and 23 athletes representing South Korea. However, at the 18th Asian game, the

Korean team will participate in six agendas that the competition and three sports will hold. In addition, the siege of North Korea and South Korea as Korean teams produced a very historic result. In the 500 meters, the Korean boat team consisting of 16 mixed athletes won the gold medal for the first time in the history of the Korean team in the Asian Game.

Third, supporters play an essential role in a sports competition and cannot be separated from symbolizing a competition, especially sports. The central part of supporters in a match is to encourage the team when competing. If supporters do not attend a game, it will feel empty. Supporters decorate a game with movement, singing, and various variations. These fans find happiness by supporting their favorite team all out while meeting their need for satisfaction that cannot be done alone. In its development, the supporters who cheerlead for the team and enliven the match can sometimes change. The chants that were sung gradually turned into an arena for harassing each other. Therefore, supporters on the field will certainly make players feel like they get new energy from the fans.

Organizing sports competitions instills sports values such as sportsmanship and contributes to increasing unity, unity, and peace between nations. Just as when the unification of the Korean Peninsula into one team in the 18th Asian game created a positive atmosphere for both countries' supporters by joining together to support the Korean team. Certainly made the atmosphere between the two countries better as if no conflict had happened before between them. The two supporters came together hand in hand to make Korea their country. This moment was touching.

Apart from the role of the Asian Games in helping to ease the civil conflict on the Korean Peninsula and increasing the chances of peace for both countries, North Korea and South Korea have extreme horizontal competition. So that all elements and aspects used to realize the peace mission will not last long or even fail.

After experiencing developments in relations between North and South Korea in 2018 through sports competitions such as the 18th Asian game and the 2018 Winter Olympics, hopes for more relations are still pinned in the following year. So that joint efforts are needed to ensure that diplomatic ties between the two countries that have been implemented in 2018 can overcome the possibility of another conflict and produce promising developments for the two countries in the following years.

Finally, they met for the first time in 65 years in 2018. North Korea's supreme leader Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in met at the land border between the two countries. It is the first time in 10 years that the North Korean leader has set foot in his sister country. This situation was greeted enthusiastically and happily by some citizens of the two Korean nations. In this meeting, North and South Korea opened their respective tourism programs for Korean citizens with the theme of a family reunion on Mount Kumgang.

However, after almost two years, the relations between South Korea and North Korea are heating up again. After the desired peace at first glance appears natural, the two countries may be back in the cold war and threaten each other as before. Relations between the two countries have suddenly heated up since the Hanoi Summit between North Korea and the United States in 2019. Until when Pyongyang blew up South Korea's North Korean liaison office at the border in June 2020. South Korean President Moon Jae-in did not despair. He continued to overcome this issue by communicating with North Korea and voicing the meeting between Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump. Unfortunately, until the new President of the United States election, Moon Jae-in's plan was still deadlocked (Kerkhoff 2019).

The emergence of the desire to unite the two Koreas for consolidation has existed for a long time. That hope was hindered by military administrations of the United States and Russia on the pretext that division of the Korean Peninsula had been determined in the negotiations of the allies, namely the victorious countries of World War II. When these great powers left Korea, efforts to create a unified Korean State intensified the two Koreas. It is proven that peaceful reunification through diplomacy has been carried out openly by South Korea since the formation of the Republic of Korea in 1948 and is still being pursued to this day, either through negotiation, cooperation, or dialogue. North Korea did the same thing in realizing a single Korean State, although in reality, North Korea's foreign policy, both with South Korea and with other countries, tends to threaten.

The realization of Korean reunification is the hope of the people on the Korean Peninsula. At first, they were one nation but were separated by competition between superpower countries during the Cold War. But ironically, the obstacles that exist in the reunification process of Korea originate from within and are related to the efforts of the two countries to safeguard and defend their respective national interests, such as ideological differences and the issue of nuclear development, which is making things worse.

But now, North Korea is starting to consider and carry out unification efforts through diplomatic channels or negotiations. That's why the two Koreas think Korea's unification in

sports competitions is an excellent opportunity to continue working on reunifying North and South Korea into one Korean Peninsula.

CONCLUSION

The conflict between North and South Korea became one of the longest-running conflicts in modern history. The efforts made frequently harmed relations between the two countries and, in some cases, worsened the situation until a historic moment occurred in 2018 when the two countries joined forces under the same flag as the Korean team during the 18th Asian Games sports competition. Of course, the incident drew worldwide attention and positively impacted the image of the two countries. Following the successful merger of the two countries in the Asian Game, the relationship between the two countries appears stable and can improve with some cooperation. Unfortunately, the conflict resurfaced after two years of the two countries attempting to improve their relations.

North Korea-South Korea relations have always piqued the world's interest in various areas, including the economy, military, culture, diplomacy, and others. Among these aspects, the diplomatic relations between the two countries are the focus of this research. As we all know, the two countries have high sensitivities, resulting in horizontal conflicts on the Korean Peninsula. The union of North and South Korea in the 18th Asian game is the most critical step toward resolving the conflict. The reason for this is that, following the merger, the conditions for peaceful diplomatic relations emerged. As a result, sports diplomacy has been used successfully to defuse conflict on the Korean Peninsula.

In addition, the treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union (Russia). I hope that the governments of North and South Korea will continue to work together to find a solution to the conflict. Because, in the current situation, finding a point of agreement between the two countries is extremely difficult. Furthermore, with the existence of international forums and competitions held each year, I hope this can be used as a peace intermediary between the two countries. The role of other countries, particularly the United States and the Soviet Union, can also end the conflict on the Korean Peninsula. As a result, I hope that this journal will serve as a resource for people interested in learning about the importance of the 18th Asian game as a sports diplomacy tool for resolving conflicts and bringing about peace on the Korean Peninsula.

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