

ABSTRACT

September 11, 2001 marked a flashpoint in the World Politics after the cold war in terms of changing security environment and actors. The U.S under Bush administration responded the attacks in 2001 by declaring the Global War on Terrorism desined to fight the war in many fronts where the terrorists live and breath. Southeast Asia has been declared by Washington as the ‘second front’ in the war on terrorism, implying the the US started to put Southeast Asia in their security strategy agenda after 9/11. The 2002 National Security Strategy launched by the White House on 2002 guided the way for the U.S to strengthen its relationships with the allies and friends in order to win this war. To meet this objective the U.S engaged in a wide range of bilateral and multilateral cooperations with the allies and friends in Southeast Asia.

Singapore on the other side has been known as the US closest allies instead of the two other formal allies that is the Philippines and Thailand. Singapore itself has been engaging in the counterterrorism effort in end of 2001 and continuously enhancing its security architecture to prevent the city-state from the threat of terrorism. In 2004, Singapore launched the white paper of its new security strategy named *The Fights Against Terror* – a manual consists of comprehensive strategy in countering and preventing terrorism. As an informal allies, Singapore has proven itself as the US closest allies and biggest supporter in most policies taken by Washington in Southeast Asia. It is also the first one to join U.S Ploriferation Security Initiative (PSI) together with another counterterror initiatives and programs.

This research is aimed at finding the influence of US-led Global War on Terror on Singapore’s counterterrorism policy and how does the US influence the policy. The author used the alliance theory of Stephen Walt to analyse the alliance order, pattern and formation of the US and Sngapore regarding to the threat of terrorism. Besides, by using the Constructivist account on norms, the author is trying to understand the context of regional security cooperation in Southeast Asia being implemented how does it infuence the policy taken by Singapore and other ASEAN states. The conclusion of this thesis come at the finding that the US used bilateralism in the form of alliance as the most effective tool in engaging with Singapore in their counterterrorism policy while the multilateral framework work less effective on the other hand due to the regional divergent interest to the US role in counterterrorism. The ASEAN norms (non-interference) in the following analysis explained why such divergence took place and limit the US influence. Eventually, the author seek to see the big picture of the regional security architecture in Southeast Asia through the case of US-Singapore alliance relationships in countering terrorism

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