

ABSTRACT

"MODERATE ISLAM" AS PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN INDONESIA FOREIGN POLICY DURING THE FIRST PERIOD OF PRESIDENT JOKO WIDODO

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Religion was previously isolated in the dynamics of international relations because it was considered an immeasurable variable, giving social scientists difficulties. However, nowadays religion has played a very large role in international. The emergence of religion in international relations is due to the existence of rebellious movements carried out by religious fundamental groups. They oppose modernist actors who have lost much of their identity and threaten the piety of their members. They oppose modernist actors who have lost much of their identity and threaten the piety of their members. The 9/11 incident became an example of an act of rebellion in the form of terrorism committed by religious fundamental groups and not long after that Indonesia was affected, namely when the world's eyes were focused on Indonesia as the country with the largest Muslim population in the world. Indonesia is also a victim of these acts of terrorism, namely the suicide bomb attacks that took place in Bali in 2002 and 2005 which claimed dozens of victims, including foreigners in it. The image of Islam in Indonesia is threatened by suicide bomb attacks by several terrorist groups with connections to international terrorist groups such as ISIS. As a result, Indonesia is trying to improve its Islāmic image by bringing the issue of moderate Islam to Indonesia's foreign affairs. Various successes have been obtained by Indonesia by bringing the issue of moderate Islam through the practice of public diplomacy and among them to fulfill Indonesia's national interests, Indonesia's motive for bringing the issue of moderate Islam. Many actors play a role in promoting moderate Islam as the image of Islam in Indonesia through the practice of public diplomacies, such as from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Religion, Nadhatul Ulama, Muhammadiyah, academics, media crews, and other practitioners. However, Indonesia has various challenges in promoting moderate Islam in the international public, one of which, exists laws that trigger violations of freedom of religion and belief.

Keywords: Religion, International Relations, Moderate Islam, Foreign Policy, Public Diplomacy.