

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Relations between Cambodia and China are not usual bilateral relations. Cambodia has been known since ancient China. Some leaders of Cambodia have closeness with the Chinese government. Call it Norodom Sihanouk, Pol Pot, and Hun Sen recently. Hun Sen is a leader of the pro-Vietnam at first. But eventually switch to support China. In some issues, Cambodia became a proxy state of China. There are several indicators can prescribe Cambodia as a proxy state. First, being a proxy state means having proximity of policy. Second, a proxy state has cultural proximity with the centre state. Third, a proxy state is a product of control of government of China in which Cambodian government has transformed as pro-Vietnam country into China's proxy.

There are important issues such as support for the One China policy and the deportation of Uighur asylum seekers. The issue of the most recent and most warm is a problem in the South China Sea. This issue is important because many potential riches in the South China Sea such as natural resources and energy sources cannot be ignored. Many claimants are involved such as the Philippines, Thailand, and other countries with their own interests.

ASEAN is the party that helps to resolve this issue. ASEAN meeting in 2012 was also chaired by Cambodia as a host. ASEAN provides an option to resolve the issue in multilateral involving outsiders. It would be detrimental to China. Thus, China asked Cambodia to express China's interests to resolve this

conflict bilaterally. So that China still can play with its power. If the issue is internationalized, then China will lose. Unfortunately, decision-making in ASEAN is not done by vote but by consensus. So it has become the failure of the first joint communiqué since 45 years.

It is not without reason. These factors are the reason for Cambodia to support China and Cambodia reliance policy was politically, economically, culturally, and military to China. In politics, the ideology of communist ideology equation becomes fundamental. With these similarities, from country to any other country has a close kinship. On the other hand, China is indirectly controlling the Cambodian democracy because then it is not fully sovereign. Cambodia played not only as proxy state but also proxy policy. Cambodia has shown full support to China's foreign policies.

The foreign policies are regarding "One China" policy, the repatriation of Uighur asylum seekers, Tibet policy, and South China Sea dispute discussion in ASEAN meetings. The discussion of South China Sea dispute in ASEAN meeting (AMM) is the continuation of the previous Cambodia's support to China's policy. The whole indicators show that Cambodia as a proxy state, has worked for the interests of China. Cambodia follows a policy of China in some of the issues shows that Cambodia does not have its own position and policy. China visited Cambodia before those issues emerge on stage. China came with economic incentives for Cambodia that has been very supportive

Economically, Cambodia has a dependency in terms of aid, investment, and trade. China is a major investor and top aid contributor in Cambodia. Billions of aid has been flowing into Cambodia. China became the main investor for Cambodia. It was in the first position among the countries of other investors. China also became a top donor despite Japan is in the up position before China. But given China's assistance to Cambodia to see relatively large percentage of 7.1 percent. In addition, substantial nominal in terms of assistance is significant. China provided assistance as a reward for the cooperation of Cambodia, which supports China. Cooperation in the field of trade is also important. Exports and imports went very smoothly. In the case of imports, China rely Cambodia as a supplier of agricultural products. While in the context of exports, China has been supplying industrial goods to Cambodia.

Culturally, many Chinese cultures transmit to the people of Cambodia. In terms of the language, the people in Cambodia mostly use Chinese rather than English. Besides the products that come from China's entry into Cambodia contains elements of Chinese culture. There are many schools in Cambodia full of Chinese components. It makes even bigger with Chinese school built by Beijing and also becomes the funder. Of the various reasons above make them inseparable for a long time. Cambodia remains a proxy state of China even though it was not stated explicitly. In terms of military, China is the largest military provider granted million dollars and distributed various forms of military equipment. The more dependent Cambodia to China, the interests of China also increased

The ideological factor one of the most important reasons Cambodia became China's proxy. The Khmer Rouge regime has brought the communist ideology to Cambodia's government until today. By the similarity of ideology between these two countries, make them inseparable. They are engaged emotionally in the same ideology. Hun Sen as Cambodia's leader who was previously pro-Vietnam leader has put his trust more on China recently.

Cambodia shows its dependency almost in all sectors. The interests of China become to flourish as well. But the most important interest for China is from political stand point. China seeks for company to stand in particular region especially Southeast Asia. Between China and Cambodia there is joint decision making in which support each policy they made. Cambodia has become one of China's closest allies in Southeast Asia and will last in a long time. Their closeness caused awareness from many countries