

Defense Perspectives within the Framework of SARA-Based Horizontal Conflict

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze SARA-based horizontal conflicts from a national defense perspective and examine their potential as a strategic indicator in the early detection system of non-military threats. The research uses a qualitative approach with the library research method through the analysis of scientific literature, policy documents, and laws and regulations related to social conflicts, national security, and national defense. The results of the study show that SARA-based horizontal conflicts can be understood as non-military threats because they have the potential to undermine social cohesion, weaken state legitimacy, and disrupt national stability. In addition, identity-based conflicts have a developmental pattern that allows the emergence of early indicators such as social polarization, intolerance, and identity-based group mobilization. These findings are expected to enrich defense studies and support the strengthening of conflict prevention policies in order to maintain national security.

INTRODUCTION

Horizontal conflicts based on Ethnicity, Religion, Race, and Intergroup (SARA) are one of the social phenomena that continue to recur in the dynamics of society, both at the national and global levels (Coser, 1956). This kind of conflict is generally triggered by deep-rooted identity differences and strengthened by social, economic, political, and information factors that develop in society. In many cases, identity-based conflicts not only create social tensions, but also have the potential to develop into communal violence that disrupts social stability, security, and public order.

So far, SARA-based horizontal conflicts tend to be understood as social, political, or cultural problems whose solutions are pursued through dialogue, reconciliation, mediation, and strengthening the values of tolerance. These approaches have an important role in conflict resolution, but are generally more oriented towards handling conflicts after conflicts have arisen or developed into real social disturbances. As a result, conflict is often positioned as an object of a conflict response, rather than as an initial symptom that can be identified and anticipated before it develops into a broader threat.

The development of the strategic environment shows that threats to a country are no longer dominated by conventional military threats. Various forms of non-military threats such as terrorism, cyberattacks, disinformation, economic crises, and identity-based social conflicts have the same ability to disrupt national stability. In the perspective of modern defense, a threat is not only understood as an act that has caused damage, but also encompasses a wide range of conditions that have the potential to undermine social cohesion, state legitimacy, and national resilience.

However, non-military threat studies still focus more on the issues of terrorism, cybersecurity, and economic threats, while SARA-based horizontal conflicts are generally still placed in the realm of social and political studies. This condition shows that there is a conceptual gap between the study of social conflict and the study of defense. Social conflicts are more often understood as events that must be resolved after they occur, while the defense perspective has not positioned social conflicts as part of the early detection mechanism of threats to national security.

In fact, the characteristics of SARA-based horizontal conflicts show that these conflicts generally develop gradually, starting from a latent phase in the form of social polarization, intolerance, and increasing identity sentiments, to developing into open conflicts that disrupt community stability. This characteristic shows that social conflicts actually have strategic value as an early indicator that can be used to identify potential non-military threats before reaching a more dangerous level of escalation.

Based on these conditions, an approach is needed that is able to bridge the study of social conflicts and the perspective of state defense. This research departs from the argument that SARA-based horizontal conflicts not only need to be understood as non-military threats to national security, but also need to be positioned as a strategic indicator in the early detection system of non-military threats. This perspective allows for a shift in approach from conflict response to

conflict anticipation, from an approach that focuses on handling conflicts after they occur to an approach that emphasizes the identification, prevention, and anticipation of the early symptoms of conflict.

Based on this description, this study aims to analyze SARA-based horizontal conflicts from the perspective of state defense, especially in relation to non-military threats and early detection systems of threats to national security. The research questions asked are: (1) how SARA-based horizontal conflicts can be understood as non-military threats to national security; and (2) how SARA-based horizontal conflicts can be positioned as strategic indicators in non-military threat early detection systems. This research is expected to make a conceptual contribution to the development of defense studies, especially through strengthening anticipatory approaches in dealing with non-military threats stemming from identity-based social conflicts.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

SARA-Based Horizontal Conflict

Horizontal conflict is a conflict that occurs between groups in society that have a relatively equal position, both from social, economic, and political aspects (Coser, 1956). In multicultural societies, horizontal conflicts often relate to the identity of groups such as SARA. These differences in identities are not the main cause of conflict, but can be a source of tension when interacting with other factors such as social inequality, political competition, group marginalization, and unequal distribution of resources (Horowitz, 1985).

From the perspective of social conflict theory, conflict is an inseparable part of people's lives. Dahrendorf (1959) explained that conflicts arise due to an unequal distribution of power in social structures. Meanwhile, Coser (1956) views that conflict is not always destructive, but can function as a means of social adjustment and change. However, when conflict involves a primordial identity that is strongly attached to a group, the potential for escalation becomes greater because it involves emotional, symbolic, and collective dimensions.

Various studies show that identity-based conflicts have different characteristics than ordinary conflicts of interest. This kind of conflict tends to develop gradually, starting from increasing group sentiment, social polarization, intolerance, to developing into open violence (Gurr, 1993; Varshney, 2002). In addition, the development of information technology has also accelerated the spread of hateful narratives, disinformation, and mass mobilization which can accelerate the escalation of conflicts (Fearon & Laitin, 2000).

These characteristics suggest that SARA-based horizontal conflicts are not events that arise suddenly, but rather develop through certain observable stages. Therefore, understanding the patterns of conflict development becomes important not only for the sake of conflict resolution, but also for identifying early symptoms that have the potential to develop into broader threats to national security and stability.

Non-Military and National Security Threats

The development of the global strategic environment has changed the perspective of the concept of threat in security and defense studies. If in the past threats were more understood in the form of military aggression between countries, now threats can also come from non-military factors that have the potential to disrupt the stability of the country and society (Buzan, Wæver, & de Wilde, 1998).

Barry Buzan explained that security is not only related to the military sector, but also includes the political, economic, social, and environmental sectors. In this perspective, threats to national security can arise from various social dynamics that disrupt the cohesion of society and the stability of the state. Identity-based horizontal conflicts are included in the category of social threats because they have the ability to undermine social integration, lower the level of public trust, and weaken the state's legitimacy in maintaining public order and security.

This view is in line with the development of non-traditional security concepts that place humans and society as security objects, not solely the state (UNDP, 1994). Social conflicts that are not handled properly can develop into security crises that have an impact on various aspects of the life of the nation and state. Therefore, social conflicts can no longer be seen only as a social or political problem, but also as a matter of national security.

In Indonesia, the expansion of the concept of threat is reflected in Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning State Defense (hereinafter referred to as the State Defense Law), especially Article 1 number 2, Article 4, and Article 7 paragraph (3), which affirms that the state defense system is prepared early to face all forms of threats to state sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the safety of the entire nation. In this provision, non-military threats are understood as threats whose handling puts government institutions outside the defense sector as the main element. Although this law does not explicitly mention SARA-based horizontal conflicts, its substance opens up space for understanding social conflicts as part of a spectrum of nonmilitary threats that can disrupt national stability.

Thus, SARA-based horizontal conflicts have strong relevance in the study of national defense because their impact is not only felt at the local level, but also has the potential to affect overall national resilience.

Early Detection Systems and Anticipatory Approaches in Non-Military Threats

The development of contemporary security studies shows a shift in approach from being originally oriented towards responding to threats to an approach that emphasizes prevention and anticipation. In this context, early warning *systems* are an important instrument for identifying early symptoms that have the potential to develop into greater security threats.

The early detection approach is based on the assumption that threats do not appear suddenly, but rather evolve through a series of observable indicators. In the context of social conflict, these indicators can be in the form of increasing social polarization, the development of identity sentiments, the spread of intolerance, the decline in social cohesion, and the increase in group mobilization based on certain identities. The existence of these indicators provides an

opportunity for the state to take preventive measures before the conflict develops into open violence.

In the Indonesian legal system, the anticipatory approach has actually acquired a normative basis. Law Number 7 of 2012 concerning the Handling of Social Conflicts (hereinafter referred to as the PKS Law) places conflict management through three stages, namely conflict prevention, conflict termination, and post-conflict recovery, as affirmed in Article 5. Furthermore, Article 6 stipulates that conflict prevention is carried out, among other things, through efforts to maintain peaceful conditions, develop peaceful dispute resolution, mitigate potential conflicts, and build an early warning system.

In addition, Law Number 17 of 2011 concerning State Intelligence (hereinafter the State Intelligence Law) emphasizes that intelligence is knowledge, organization, and activities related to the formulation of policies, national strategies, and decision-making based on the analysis of information and facts for detection and early warning in the context of prevention, deterrence, and countermeasures to every threat to national security (Article 1 number 1). This law also places State Intelligence as an integral part of the national security system (Article 1 number 2), with the functions of investigation, security, and mobilization (Article 6 paragraph (1)).

However, most research on SARA-based horizontal conflicts still focuses on the causes of conflicts, the impact of conflicts, and conflict resolution strategies after the conflict occurs. Studies that specifically position identity-based social conflict as a strategic indicator in the early detection system of non-military threats are still relatively limited. In fact, the characteristics of identity conflicts that develop gradually show that these conflicts have strategic value as an initial symptom that can be used to anticipate threats to national security.

This approach also reflects a paradigm shift from conflict response to conflict anticipation. In the *conflict response paradigm*, the main attention is given to actions after a conflict occurs. On the contrary, *conflict anticipation* places the ability to detect and anticipate early symptoms of conflict as an important part of efforts to maintain national stability and resilience.

Literature Synthesis and Research Position

Based on a literature review, it can be understood that SARA-based horizontal conflicts have characteristics that are able to disrupt social stability and have the potential to develop into a broader threat to national security. On the other hand, modern defense studies have expanded the concept of threat to include various forms of non-military threats that originate from the social dynamics of society. The Indonesian legal system has also provided a normative basis for conflict prevention approaches through the PKS Law and the early detection function as stipulated in the State Intelligence Law.

However, most studies still view social conflict as an event that must be addressed after it occurs, while studies that position conflict as an early indicator in non-military threat early detection systems are still relatively limited. Therefore, this research takes a position to bridge the study of social conflict and defense studies through a more anticipatory perspective.

This research offers a conceptual framework that positions SARA-based horizontal conflict as a strategic indicator in the early detection system of non-military threats. Thus, this study views conflict not only as a threat that requires a response, but also as an initial symptom that needs to be identified and anticipated in order to strengthen national resilience and security. This shift in perspective is expected to make a conceptual contribution to the development of defense studies, particularly in building a more preventive approach to non-military threats.

METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative approach with the library research method. The qualitative approach was chosen because this study aims to understand, interpret, and analyze SARA-based horizontal conflicts in the perspective of state defense, particularly in relation to non-military threats and early detection systems of threats to national security.

The source of research data consists of secondary data obtained from various scientific literature, including books, national and international journal articles, previous research results, policy documents, reports of international institutions, and laws and regulations relevant to social conflicts, national security, national defense, and social conflict management. The regulations that are the main reference in this study include the State Defense Law, the PKS Law, and the State Intelligence Law.

Data collection is carried out through identification, selection, and review of literature that has relevance to the research focus. The collected literature is then analyzed using content analysis techniques to identify key concepts, patterns of relationships between concepts, and argumentative tendencies that develop in social conflict studies and defense studies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of SARA-Based Horizontal Conflicts and Their Potential Escalation

SARA-based horizontal conflicts have different characteristics compared to individual conflicts and conflicts that are solely based on economic interests. Identity-based conflicts involve emotional, symbolic, and collective dimensions inherent in a social group so that they have a higher potential for escalation. Group identity not only functions as a social differentiator, but also as a means of mobilization that is able to mobilize group solidarity in the face of other groups.

In Coser's (1956) perspective, conflict is an inseparable part of social life and can function as a means of adjustment in society. However, when conflict develops on issues of primordial identity, conflict tends to intensify because it touches on aspects of strong beliefs, values, and belongings in a group. In line with that, Dahrendorf (1959) explained that conflicts arise due to inequality of interests and the distribution of power in society. When these inequality are associated with group identity, the potential for conflict becomes increasingly complex because it involves both structural and emotional dimensions.

Various studies show that identity-based conflicts generally do not appear suddenly, but rather develop through certain stages. Conflicts are often initiated by increasing group sentiment, social polarization, the development of prejudice and intolerance, and the strengthening of the narrative of group exclusivity. In the next stage, these conditions can develop into mass mobilization, social confrontation, and open violence if not managed properly.

The characteristics of these progressively developing conflicts suggest that SARA-based horizontal conflicts actually have early indicators that can be observed before reaching a higher stage of escalation. Thus, conflict can be understood not only as a social event that occurs suddenly, but also as a process that exhibits certain initial symptoms. These conceptual findings are important because they open up space for the use of a more preventive approach in understanding social conflicts, especially in the context of national security and defense.

SARA-Based Horizontal Conflict as a Non-Military Threat to National Security

The development of the global strategic environment has shifted the security paradigm that previously focused on conventional military threats to include various forms of non-military threats. In the contemporary security perspective, threats to the state no longer come only from military aggression or the use of armed force, but can also stem from social, economic, political, cultural, informational, and technological dynamics that have the potential to disrupt national stability (Buzan, Wæver, & de Wilde, 1998).

Within such frameworks, SARA-based horizontal conflicts have characteristics that allow them to be categorized as non-military threats. This kind of conflict not only causes disturbances to public order, but also has the potential to damage social cohesion, weaken national integration, and reduce the level of public trust in state institutions. According to Buzan (1991), threats to the social sector occur when the collective identity of a group faces pressure that can disrupt the sustainability and stability of the community's social life. Thus, identity-based conflicts can no longer be seen solely as local social problems, but rather have broader implications for national security.

The non-traditional security approach also places society as one of the objects that must be protected in the national security system. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report of 1994 emphasized that security is not only related to the protection of the state, but also the protection of people from various forms of threats that can disrupt social life and people's welfare (UNDP, 1994). In this context, SARA-based horizontal conflicts have the potential to create insecurity, expand social polarization, and hinder sustainable social and economic development.

From the perspective of state defense, social conflicts that develop into communal violence can affect national resilience directly or indirectly. Freedman (2013) explained that threats to modern security often arise from internal factors that are capable of disrupting the political and social stability of a country. As social conflicts develop into widespread violence, countries will face challenges in maintaining public order, protecting citizens, and maintaining national

stability. Therefore, the impact of social conflicts is not only in the social realm of society, but also enters the realm of security and defense.

In the Indonesian context, the understanding of non-military threats has a strong normative basis. Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning State Defense explains that threats to state sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security can come from military threats as well as non-military threats. Although the law does not explicitly refer to SARA-based horizontal conflicts as a form of non-military threat, the substance of the regulation opens up room for interpretation that various forms of disturbance to national stability, including social conflicts that have the potential to break the unity of the nation, can be positioned as threats to national interests.

In addition, Law Number 7 of 2012 concerning the Handling of Social Conflicts shows that the state recognizes social conflicts as a problem that has a serious impact on public security and order. This is reflected in the regulation of conflict prevention, conflict cessation, and post-conflict recovery as a single mechanism that must be carried out by the government and local governments. This arrangement shows that social conflicts are not only a matter of relations between community groups, but also related to the state's responsibility to maintain national stability.

Based on this description, SARA-based horizontal conflicts can be understood as a form of non-military threat that has the ability to disrupt social cohesion, state legitimacy, and national stability. However, most of the approaches used to date still place conflict as a threat that must be addressed after it occurs. This perspective needs to be evaluated because the characteristics of a gradually developing conflict actually provide a variety of early symptoms that can be identified before reaching a more dangerous stage of escalation. This condition opens up space to place SARA-based horizontal conflicts not only as non-military threats, but also as strategic indicators in the early detection system of threats to national security.

Limitations of the Conflict Response Approach in Conflict Handling

The handling of social conflicts in general is still dominated by an approach oriented towards responding to conflicts that have occurred (*conflict response*). In this approach, state and stakeholder interventions are usually carried out after the conflict has entered the manifest phase, i.e. when social tensions have developed into security disturbances, communal violence, or open conflict. The main focus of this approach is the cessation of conflicts, the restoration of public order, and the rehabilitation of post-conflict social conditions.

The conflict response approach has an important role in controlling conflicts and preventing the spread of the impact. However, the approach has a number of limitations. First, handling measures are only taken after the conflict has reached a certain level of escalation, so that potential social, economic, and political losses have often occurred. Second, this approach tends to place conflict as an event that must be resolved after it arises, rather than as a social process that develops gradually and can be anticipated from the start. Third, overly response-focused orientation often causes prevention and early detection efforts to not receive adequate attention.

In the context of SARA-based horizontal conflicts, these limitations become increasingly relevant because identity conflicts generally do not appear suddenly. As previously explained, identity-based conflicts develop through certain stages characterized by increasing social polarization, strengthening group sentiment, developing intolerance, and declining social cohesion. These symptoms can actually be observed before the conflict develops into open violence. However, in a conflict response approach, these initial indicators are often not treated as an important part of the security and defense system.

From a national security perspective, delays in identifying early symptoms of conflict can increase the risk of broader social instability. Buzan, Wæver, and de Wilde (1998) explain that threats to security often develop through certain processes before reaching levels that endanger the stability of a country. Therefore, the ability to recognize early signs of threats is an important part of maintaining national security. In the context of social conflict, these capabilities are not only related to the handling of conflicts that have occurred, but also the ability of the state to read social dynamics that have the potential to develop into non-military threats.

The limitations of a response-oriented approach can also be seen in the national legal framework. The PKS Law explicitly places conflict prevention as the first stage in handling social conflicts. This shows that lawmakers do not view conflicts solely as events that must be dealt with after they occur, but rather as a phenomenon that needs to be prevented from the initial stage. Similarly, the State Intelligence Law places the functions of early detection and early warning as important instruments in maintaining national security.

Thus, *the conflict response approach* that has been dominant in handling social conflicts needs to be complemented by a more anticipatory approach. The characteristics of SARA-based horizontal conflicts that are gradually developing indicate that there is an opportunity to identify early indicators before the conflict reaches an escalation level that threatens national stability. This condition opens up space for the development of a perspective that is not only oriented towards the response to conflict, but also on the ability to anticipate potential conflicts through the early detection mechanisms of non-military threats.

SARA Conflict as a Strategic Indicator in the Early Detection System of Non-Military Threats

The discussion in the previous section shows that SARA-based horizontal conflicts have different characteristics compared to other forms of threats. Identity-based conflicts do not appear suddenly, but develop through certain stages characterized by increasing social polarization, strengthening group sentiment, developing intolerance, and declining social cohesion. At the same time, the conflict also has the potential to disrupt national stability so that it can be positioned as part of a non-military threat in the perspective of national defense.

These characteristics show that SARA-based horizontal conflicts actually have a number of early indicators that can be observed before they develop into open conflicts. In other words, conflict can be understood not only as a social

event that must be dealt with when it has occurred, but also as a process that exhibits certain symptoms that can be used to identify potential threats from an early stage. This perspective is important because it provides space for the state to take preventive measures before conflict develops into a more serious security disturbance.

In modern security systems, the ability to detect early signs of threats is an important part of an *early warning system*. The main function of the system is to identify various indicators that indicate the existence of potential threats so that preventive measures can be taken before the threat develops into a crisis. Therefore, if SARA-based horizontal conflicts are understood as non-military threats, then the initial indicators that accompany the development of the conflict also need to be positioned as part of the non-military threat early detection system.

In this context, the study argues that SARA-based horizontal conflicts are not only non-military threats to national security, but can also be positioned as strategic indicators in non-military threat early detection systems. The strategic indicator in question is not open conflict that has caused violence, but various social symptoms that appear in the pre-conflict phase, such as increasing social polarization, developing narratives of intolerance, strengthening group exclusivism, declining social interaction between groups, and increasing dissemination of provocative and discriminatory information.

The approach has relevance to the national legal framework that places prevention as an integral part of the country's security system. The PKS Law emphasizes that conflict prevention is the first stage in handling social conflicts. Meanwhile, the State Intelligence Law provides a foundation for the importance of early detection and early warning functions against various forms of threats that can disrupt national security. Thus, efforts to identify the early symptoms of social conflict not only have a conceptual basis in security studies, but also have normative legitimacy in the Indonesian legal system.

Furthermore, the placement of SARA-based horizontal conflicts as a strategic indicator in the early detection system of non-military threats allows for integration between social conflict studies and defense studies. So far, the two fields of study tend to develop separately. The study of social conflict focuses more on the causes, dynamics, and resolution of conflicts, while defense studies deal more with threats to the security of the state. Through this approach, social conflicts are no longer seen solely as social problems that must be resolved after they occur, but also as a source of strategic information that can be used to read potential threats to national stability.

Thus, the conceptual contribution of this research lies in the effort to position SARA-based horizontal conflicts as a strategic indicator in the early detection system of non-military threats. This perspective broadens the perspective of social conflict, from what was originally only understood as an object of post-conflict handling to an important instrument in identifying and anticipating threats to national security from the early stages of its development.

Paradigm Shift: From Conflict Response to Conflict Anticipation

Previous discussions have shown that SARA-based horizontal conflicts have characteristics that develop gradually and show various early symptoms before reaching the open conflict phase. These characteristics show that social conflict is not solely an event that must be dealt with after it occurs, but can also be understood as a process that allows identification and anticipation from the early stages. Therefore, a change in perspective is needed in understanding the relationship between social conflict and national security.

So far, the dominant approach used in handling social conflicts tends to be oriented towards conflict response. In this approach, the main attention is paid to the cessation of conflicts, the restoration of social conditions, and the enforcement of security after a conflict develops into a real disturbance to public order. While such an approach is still necessary, an overly response-focused orientation leads to opportunities for prevention to often be missed. As a result, states only act when the conflict has reached an escalation level that causes significant social, economic, and political losses.

Alternatively, this study offers a conflict anticipation approach that places SARA-based horizontal conflict as part of a non-military threat early detection system. In this approach, the focus of attention is no longer directed to the conflict that has already occurred, but to the early symptoms that indicate the potential for conflict escalation in society. Thus, the main goal of security policy is not only to control conflicts, but also to prevent conflicts from developing into threats to national stability.

The conceptual framework offered in this study consists of five main stages. The first stage is the emergence of early indicators of conflict which are characterized by increasing social polarization, the development of identity sentiments, declining tolerance, and the increasing spread of provocative narratives in public spaces. The second stage is the process of identifying and monitoring these indicators through early detection mechanisms by the government and relevant stakeholders. The third stage is the implementation of preventive measures in the form of social dialogue, strengthening moderation, public education, and improving coordination between institutions. The fourth stage is the prevention of conflict escalation through appropriate and proportionate policy interventions. The fifth stage is the maintenance of social stability and national resilience as the ultimate goal of an anticipatory security system.

The model shows that social conflicts do not always have to be understood as a threat that has already occurred, but can also be treated as a strategic source of information for the state in reading the evolving security dynamics in society. By making SARA-based horizontal conflicts a strategic indicator in non-military threat early detection systems, countries have a greater chance of taking preventive measures before conflicts escalate into crises that disrupt national security.

Thus, this study offers a paradigm shift from conflict response to conflict anticipation. The shift is not intended to replace existing conflict handling mechanisms, but rather to complement them through a more preventive and anticipatory approach. In this perspective, SARA-based horizontal conflicts are

no longer positioned only as an object of security handling, but also as a strategic indicator that can be used to strengthen non-military threat early detection systems and improve national resilience in a sustainable manner.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SARA-based horizontal conflicts can be understood as a form of non-military threat because they have the potential to disrupt social cohesion, national stability, and state resilience. The characteristics of conflicts that develop gradually through various social phenomena suggest that conflict needs to be understood not only as a threat that must be dealt with once it has occurred, but also as a phenomenon that can be identified from the early stages of its development.

This research offers a conceptual framework that positions SARA-based horizontal conflict as a strategic indicator in the early detection system of non-military threats. This perspective encourages a shift in approach from conflict response to conflict anticipation, so that efforts to maintain national security are not only oriented towards handling conflicts, but also on the ability to anticipate potential threats early on.

Suggestions

The government needs to strengthen the early detection system of identity-based social conflicts by monitoring indicators such as social polarization, intolerance, hate speech, and identity-based group mobilization. These efforts need to be carried out in an integrated manner through coordination between local governments, security forces, Kesbangpol, as well as community leaders and religious leaders.

In addition, defense and security institutions need to include SARA-based social conflicts as one of the indicators in the non-military threat early detection system to support conflict prevention efforts before they develop into disturbances to national stability.

Further research is recommended to develop more measurable indicators or parameters in assessing the level of escalation of social conflicts as the basis for conflict prevention policy-making.

FURTHER STUDY

Future research is encouraged to explore the dynamics of SARA-based horizontal conflicts in different regional and socio-cultural contexts to better understand the factors that contribute to conflict emergence, escalation, and resolution. Comparative studies involving various provinces or communities could provide valuable insights into how local governance, social cohesion, and security institutions influence conflict prevention and management. In addition, future studies may employ mixed-method or longitudinal approaches to assess the long-term effectiveness of defense strategies and community-based peacebuilding initiatives in reducing social tensions and strengthening national resilience.

Furthermore, future scholars may investigate the role of digital media, information dissemination, and misinformation in shaping perceptions and triggering SARA-related conflicts. Given the increasing influence of online

communication, examining strategies for digital literacy, early warning systems, and intergroup dialogue could contribute to more effective conflict mitigation frameworks. Research focusing on collaborative approaches involving defense institutions, local governments, religious leaders, educational institutions, and civil society organizations would also provide practical recommendations for strengthening social harmony and preventing the recurrence of horizontal conflicts.

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