

ABSTRAK

Konflik antara Israel dan Iran telah berlangsung lama dengan pola konflik proksi. Eskalasi baru terjadi ketika Israel melancarkan Operasi *Rising Lion* pada Juni 2025 yang menargetkan fasilitas nuklir dan instalasi militer strategis Iran di Natanz, Esfahan, dan Arak, serta memicu serangan balasan Iran melalui Operasi *True Promise*. Penelitian ini menganalisis faktor-faktor yang melatarbelakangi serangan Israel terhadap Iran dalam Operasi *Rising Lion* tahun 2025. Kerangka teori yang digunakan adalah *Neoclassical Realism* yang dikemukakan oleh Gideon Rose, yang menekankan interaksi antara tekanan eksternal, persepsi elite dan dinamika politik domestik, serta kapabilitas negara dalam membentuk kebijakan luar negeri. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa keputusan Israel dipengaruhi oleh peningkatan program nuklir Iran yang memperkuat persepsi ancaman eksistensial Israel, peningkatan kapabilitas militer Iran melalui pengembangan rudal balistik dan pergeseran pola konflik dari proksi ke langsung, kepentingan politik domestik Perdana Menteri Benjamin Netanyahu yang menghadapi tekanan internal, serta keunggulan kapabilitas militer Israel di bidang teknologi, intelijen, dan sistem pertahanan berlapis. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa kebijakan luar negeri Israel merupakan hasil interaksi antara tekanan eksternal, dinamika domestik, dan kapabilitas negara, serta tidak dapat dijelaskan oleh faktor tunggal. Penelitian ini juga memberikan kontribusi dalam memahami dinamika kebijakan luar negeri Israel dalam konteks konflik Timur Tengah kontemporer.

Kata Kunci: Israel, Iran, Operasi *Rising Lion*, *Neoclassical Realism*, Konflik.

ABSTRACT

The conflict between Israel and Iran has long been characterized by proxy warfare. A new escalation occurred when Israel launched Operation Rising Lion in June 2025, targeting nuclear facilities and strategic military installations in Natanz, Isfahan, and Arak, while also triggering Iran's retaliatory Operation True Promise. This study analyzes the factors underlying Israel's attack on Iran in Operation Rising Lion in 2025. The theoretical framework employed is Neoclassical Realism as proposed by Gideon Rose, which emphasizes the interaction between external pressures, elite perceptions and domestic political dynamics, and state capabilities in shaping foreign policy. The findings indicate that Israel's decision was influenced by the advancement of Iran's nuclear program which strengthened Israel's perception of existential threat, the enhancement of Iran's military capabilities through ballistic missile development and the shift in conflict patterns from proxy to direct confrontation, the domestic political interests of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu facing internal pressures, and Israel's superior military capabilities in technology, intelligence, and layered defense systems. This study concludes that Israel's foreign policy is the result of interaction between external pressures, domestic dynamics, and state capabilities, and cannot be explained by a single factor. This study also contributes to understanding the dynamics of Israeli foreign policy in the context of contemporary Middle East conflict.

Keywords: Israel, Iran, Operation Rising Lion, Neoclassical Realism, Conflict.