

**LITERARY WORK IN REVEALING  
THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS A WORLD POLICE**

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**Abstrak**

*Penelitian ini bertujuan mengungkapkan peran Amerika Serikat sebagai polisi dunia seperti tergambar/tercermin dalam sebuah karya sastra. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan teknik analisis isi yang dilakukan dengan menempuh model alir, yaitu reduksi data, penyajian data, dan menarik kesimpulan. Analisis menggunakan teori sosiologi, model pencerminan Georg Lukacs. Sumber data penelitian adalah sebuah script film berbahasa Inggris berjudul "Olympus Has Fallen" oleh The Rothenbergers. Hasil penelitian sebagai berikut: Pertama, tokoh utama adalah Mike Banning, seorang agen rahasia Amerika yang bertugas menyelamatkan presiden. Kedua, latar sosial yang menggambarkan peran Amerika Serikat sebagai polisi dunia yang menguasai dunia dengan kekuatan militer dan pengaruhnya. Ketiga, karya sastra mampu menggambarkan peran negara superpower, Amerika Serikat sebagai polisi dunia melalui dominasi kekuatan militer dan pengaruhnya di dunia.*

*Kata Kunci: Polisi dunia, Amerika Serikat, peran, karya sastra.*

**INTRODUCTION**

In 1945, America came out of the war as one of the strongest of all the major participants. It began to assume the role of a world police or peace keeper promoting its ideals and political sentiments in an effort to end future conflicts.

It was a term first applied to the British Empire, the United States of America and the Soviet Union. Following World War II, British Empire superpower status transferred to the United States. Post World War II phase, the United States and the Soviet Union came to be generally regarded as the two global cops with their different interests, and confronted each other in the Cold War. After the Cold War, only the United States appears to fulfill the criteria of being considered a world police. The term "Emerging World Police" has been applied by scholars to the possibility that the People's Republic of China could soon emerge as a World Police in Asia region on par with the United States or at least at par with USSR-USA phase.

Alice L. Miller, a professor of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School, defines a world police as a country that has the capacity in project dominating power, influence, interest, and military anywhere in the world, and sometimes, in more than one region of the globe at a time, and so may plausibly attain the status of world police.

The United States remains the single most powerful nation on earth and how well or poorly it projects its influence matters greatly to the world, such as Asian countries. Recent developments have, however, rightly or wrongly, raised some questions marks over the credibility and effectiveness of US foreign policy. (<http://www.cfr.org/united-states/america-destiny-police-world/p.5559>)

US involvement in many issues as a world police ongoing crisis over the world are: 1) the debacle in Iraq has undermined the US in many ways. For instance, the US public is now very wary of supporting foreign adventures as a result. Moreover, there is much more international distrust of the US after its basis for invading Iraq was shown to be untrue. 2) The alleged use of chemical weapons by the Syrian President Bashar al Assad's government in Syria has diminished the US. The US and its allies said circumstantial evidence showed the Assad regime was culpable, though this was hotly disputed by Assad's allies such as Russia and China. The US responded slowly and hesitated in the face of this violation of their red line. (Jusman, 2013)

In addition to that, literary works, arts, and even sciences have recorded the social phenomenon for many years and eventually have a connection to it. From literary perspective, it is mentioned that literature imitates the social reality of the living things even until the inanimate objects.

"Literature imitates life, and life is, in large measure, a social reality even though the natural world and the inner of subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary imitation" (Wellek, 1977:109)

The United States as a world police has become a phenomenon that emerges in society and has inspired several authors of literary works. "Olympus Has Fallen" by Rothenbergers shows the reflection of the role of The United States of America as a world police.

Based on the above stated facts, it is clear that the US as a world police has become a serious issue that still exists in this century.

## **METHOD**

In conducting this research, I apply descriptive qualitative method as cited in the Qualitative and Quantitative Research by John Anderson, Qualitative research is conducted by collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. (Anderson, 2006)

In addition, a library research usually takes the form of the literary review. There steps taken in conducting the research: choosing the literary work, movie script, as the object of this research, reading the whole script, deciding the problem as the role of the US as a world police in the movie script "Olympus Has Fallen", collecting data related to the object of the research, deciding the reflection theory by Georg Lukacs to reveal the reflection of the role of the US as a world police based on the movie script "Olympus Has Fallen".

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The analysis is divided into three sections: the major character, the social setting, and the reflection of the role of the United States of America as a world police in a literary work.

### **Major Character**

Major character is a character that has a central position in a story. Major character is also the center of what the author wants to tell in her/his work. Major character is the character

that mostly appears in many events of the story. (Nurgiyantoro, 2009) Major character can be defined as an important character in a story. It determines the plot of the story because it is mostly exposed and connected to other character/s in the story. It can be a subject of an action or even the object of it. (Nurgiyantoro, 2009). The major character in the movie script "Olympus Has Fallen" is Mike Banning. He is the central part of the story and dominates every part of the events in the movie script from the beginning until the end of the story.

The following events prove Mike Banning as the major character: (1) Banning fails to save first lady, (2) Banning is demoted as secret service agent, (3) Banning knows the White House is under attack, (4) Banning infiltrates the White House, (5) Banning gets in touch and identifies himself to the NMCC, (6) Banning asks Jacobs and Trumbull to reject Kang's request, (7) Banning is saved by Gonnor, (8) Banning deactivates Cerberus nuclear launching, (9) Banning saves President Asher and Connor, (10) Banning gets his job back as US secret service.

Based on the above events, it is clearly seen that Mike Banning is the major character in this movie script as he has the highest intensity involvement in the whole events from the beginning to the end of the story that build the story. It means that without Mike Banning's involment in the story, the movie script will not be possible.

## **Social Setting**

Social setting shows how the characters live in the story. It can be the way they think, their habits, beliefs, or even the culture of the place where the story takes place.

*"Latar sosial menyaran pada hal-hal yang berhubungan dengan perilaku kehidupan sosial masyarakat di suatu tempat yang diceritakan dalam karya fiksi ... dapat berupa kebiasaan hidup, adat istiadat, tradisi, keyakinan, pandangan hidup, cara berpikir dan bersikap ..."* (Nurgiyantoro, 2009:233)

The social setting of the "Olympus Has Fallen" movie script is focused on the capacity to project dominating power, military, and influence.

### **(1) Dominating power**

The United States is very strong to have capacity as a world police in political power. It means the power to set the terms under which other groups and classes must operate. By this definition, domination does not mean controlling each and every issue, and it does not rest solely on involvement in government. (Mc Graw-Hill)

Political power is a very general definition that allows many forms of power that can be changed from one to another. It leaves open the question of whether force or coercion is always lurking somewhere in the background in the exercise of power, as many definitions imply.

Political power is the ability to shape and control the political behavior of others and to lead and guide their behavior in the direction desired by the person, group, or institution wielding the political power. The United States has a president who has the highest position on political order to control the world with full of authority. From this starting point, it constructs a model that is used to evaluate legitimate some persons who represent a country.

"Charismatic authority is the legitimate rule discussed by Weber, and it is concerned with how a political order can be maintained by the force of a leader's personality. Often such

leaders will be seen as having supernatural powers or qualities. Weber explains that this form of authority is resting on devotion to the exceptional sanctity, heroism or exemplary character of an individual person and of the normative pattern or order revealed or ordained by him". (Weber, 1978:215)

## **(2) Military**

United States is the only truly global power. Its military reach – whether on land, at sea, or in the air – extends to every point on the globe. The US can control global security in all continents and also has a comprehensive partnership with local government, organization, and institution by controlling military power.

"The characteristics of the modern nation-state are outlined as a political apparatus (a leader or government supported by institution and other forms of organization, recognized to have sovereign rights within the borders of a demarcated territorial area, able to back its claim to sovereignty by control of military power, many of whose citizens have positive feelings of commitment to its national identity". (Giddens, 1989: 303)

The Seventh Fleet and troops during World War II have many functions. The Seventh Fleet is a numbered fleet (a military formation) of the United States Navy. It is a permanently forward deployed force headquartered at US Fleet Activities Yokosuka, in Yokosuka, Japan with units positioned near Japan and South Korea. The American fleet is dependable on warship because its tactics are designed to suit fast torpedo, attacks and hot gun actions. Its mission primarily is included scouting and screening for the fleet.(Roscoe, 1953:7)

While World War II may have enhanced and revealed the extent of its primary, the sheer fact of American dominance did not dictate policy. In crafting its new Asian policy, the US gets more creative, deploying more soft power than hard power to stand a better chance of winning the hearts and minds and the trust of its friends in Asia. (Ikenberry via Latham, 1997:41)

## **(3) Influence**

Influence over government is only the final and most visible aspect of power elite domination, which has its roots in the class structure, the corporate control of the investment function, and the operation of the policy formation network.(McGraw-Hill, 1997:289)

Within this system, the principle of organization is the relationship between labor and capital. In other words, the type of society that we live in is dominated by the relationship between workers and employers.

One possible view of the relationship between democracy and capitalism sees the former determining the latter. A popular view in the US media assumes that the voters determine the government, with all voters having equal power, then the government passes laws that determine the economic system in the interests of the majority. (Rose, 1967:492)

In arguing for the proposition that the United States is democratic in nature, Rose found it necessary to emphasize that political power is to a large degree independent of and superior to economic power. The reason for this insistence is that economic power is distributed in an extremely unequal manner. If political power exactly followed economic power, the degree of inequality would leave little to be called democracy.

## **The Reflection of The United States of America as A World Police in “Olympus Has Fallen” Movie Script.**

The role of the United States of America in political power is clearly seen when President Asher asked Trumbull for his support and recommendation of the presence of the Seventh Fleet, the marines in the Sea of Japan and the US troops in the DMZ (Demilitarize Zone).

Asher : Thanks for sitting in, Marty. I want you to know your support has  
Been invaluable.

Trumbull (nods) : Just tell me something, Ben. Asher waits expectant.

Trumbull : Are you sure about all this?

Asher : I made a promise to the people. And I intend to keep it. Trumbull  
Shakes Asher’s hand. (Rothenbergers, 2013:14)

When The South Korean Foreign Minister, Lee Tae Woo and his personal security officers stepped into the Oval Office, president Asher moved down the hall with Cordoza, McMillan, and Hoenig after they were holding a meeting. The oval office foreign minister and the rest of Asher’s entire assembled national security team then stood up to welcome him.

Asher : Minister Lee, it’s good to see you again.

Lee : Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate you taking the time to meet  
on your nation’s holiday.

Asher : Shall we sit? (Rothenbergers, 2013:18),

The president, minister Lee, and official teams were hostaged in the bunker. Kang succeeded to keep and tell them how hurt he was when US tortured his nation during Korean War in 1950-1953.

Kang : Open your eyes, Minister Lee. Our homeland is divided. Our people  
are divided because of these Americans.

Lee : But, our countries (USA) were working toward peace  
(Kang begins to walk slowly toward Lee)

Kang : Does your “peace” involve million of our Northern brothers, dead  
from famine and disease?  
(Kang stands before Lee)

Kang : No, Minister Lee, this is war. .The time has come for all korea to  
again be one. (Rothenbergers, 2013:37),

When president Asher held a meeting with minister Lee, Banning became an employee at the Treasury Department, in the morning he always turned on television to know what was going on about Asher's policy to boost US foreign policy. It is very important for Banning to concern about Asher's political issue through television. (Rothenbergers, 2013:8),

The United States of America does not simply ignore North Korea. Having done the war in 1933, Korean peninsula was divided. The thirty-eight parallel is the line of latitude that separates the northern and southern portions of the Korean peninsula. The north has been under stringent economic sanctions and a tight military cordon practically since its creation. Supporting US policy in political power, president Asher has established its control over 191 governments in bilateral meetings and diplomatic relations. Kang and his men from north Korea want to invade South Korea and make Korean peninsula become one nation as a communist with highest alliance with Russia and China.

The role of the United States in The Seventh Fleet is clearly seen when Kang was very scared of the US military in the sea of Japan near North Korea. Kang got through the Pentagon, and interrogated the house speaker, Mr. Trumbull. He ordered them to finally recall the Seventh Fleet and have a helicopter filled up and ready to get them out of there by dawn.

Kang (on TV) : Mr. Trumbull. The whole room jumps. Kang's eyes fix on Trumbull blinks, taken aback.

Kang : My name is Yeonsak Kang. The man who now controls your White House.

Kang : In addition to your president, I hold your vice president, full National Security Team, and South Korean Foreign Minister Lee inside the President's Emergency Operations Center.

Trumbull : What do you want?

Kang : I want you to recall the US Seventh Fleet from the Sea of Japan.

Trumbull : Wait a minute. We can't just ...

Kang : You have 12 hours. (Rothenbergers, 2013:39-40),

Trumbull has the highest position to make a decision to send some teams entering the White House to release the president with his deputy without reporting to Kang. For US government, the president is a symbol US power as a superpower country and the pride of US citizens. But there are so many obstacles to succeed in this operation. As the time goes by, Trumbull and his official teams have been warned to recall the Seventh Fleet. For Trumbull and official teams, the Seventh Fleet is the role of US political and military interest in East Asia because US defends itself against the rising of China, North Korea, and Russia.

Kang : Mr Trumbull

Trumbull swallows. : You now have one hour to recall the Seventh Fleet. When this is done, I want Marine One on the South Lawn fueled and ready. One

hour.

Kang terminates the transmission. In the Crisis Room, the digital wall clock reads 9:48

Jacobs (to Trumbull) : We've got no choice. You have to recall the Fleet.

Galdarres : But, Mr Speaker.

Trumbull : What do you propose, General?

These people hold all the cards.

The wall clock continues its inexorable march. The time is up. Trumbull hesitates. All eyes on him.

Trumbull : Recall the Seventh Fleet. (Rothenbergers, 2013:79-84)

In this case, Kang intends to threaten US to withdraw its troops and the largest US fleet from the Sea of Japan near North Korea. The communists from North Korea want to invade North Korea and make the Korean Peninsula become one nation as a communist with the biggest alliance with Russia and China.

The White House itself rises majestically from the emerald South Lawn. Secret Service snipers on the roof, K-9 patrols circling the grounds, armed guards at every entrance. Before meeting Minister Lee, the White House officials discuss about taking an action on the North Korean Army ready to pour across their border in DMZ and Sea of Japan. (Rothenbergers, 2013:11-12)

The role of the United States of America in military weapons is also clearly seen when the US joined forces militarily with South Korea in military experimental weapons and military cooperation with all countries especially its allies against terrorism, communism, and extremism. The US alliance with South Korea has been a constant feature of American foreign policy in Asia since the Korean War, illustrating the longstanding US commitment to stability in the Asia-Pacific.

The role of the United States of America in capitalism is reflected when Minister Lee knows that capitalist government has the greatest influence through indirect means. The feudal society, the landlord ruled both the economy and the functions of government and repression. Capitalists rule the economy, but they usually do not directly rule in the government. More commonly, capitalists support politicians who will protect their influences.

The role of the United States of America in democracy is reflected when inner officials talk about US troops in DMZ to secure South Korea, deter aggression from North Korea and protect American citizens. They have their opinion to get deliberation before Minister Lee arrives at the White House. (Rothenbergers, 2013:11-12)

## **CONCLUSION**

Through this research, the major character is Mike Banning. He is an important figure in developing the story. He appeared in ten events. Social setting reveals the role of US as a world police. There are three capacities that define a world police, dominating power, military, and influence. As a literary work, "Olympus Has Fallen" reflects the role of US as a world police. The reflection of the role starts from dominating power (political power), military, and influence in East Asia in securing Japan, South Korea in East Asia against communists from North Korea,

China, and Russia by deploying the Seventh Fleet and some US troops in the DMZ along 38th parallel after Cold War between USA and USSR. The three capacities are related to each other to strengthen US as a world police.

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