

**ANALISIS PERSEPSI ANCAMAN AMERIKA SERIKAT TERHADAP
JULIAN ASSANGE DALAM TEORI PERCEPTION AND MISPERCEPTION
PERIODE 2010–2012**

ABSTRAK

Amerika Serikat menghadapi tantangan serius ketika Julian Assange dan WikiLeaks membocorkan ribuan dokumen rahasia pada tahun 2010 hingga 2012. Kebocoran ini mengguncang tatanan keamanan nasional yang semakin sensitif sejak tragedi 11 September. Studi ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi faktor-faktor yang membentuk persepsi ancaman Amerika Serikat terhadap Julian Assange pada periode tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori *Perception and Misperception* dari Robert Jervis dan menerapkan pendekatan kualitatif dengan desain studi kasus. Data dikumpulkan melalui analisis dokumen resmi, pernyataan pemerintah, dan liputan media utama. Hasil studi menunjukkan bahwa dua distorsi kognitif utama memengaruhi persepsi pengambil kebijakan Amerika Serikat. Pertama, konsep Evoked Set membuat para pejabat membandingkan tindakan Assange dengan pola ancaman terorisme dan spionase. Kedua, Attribution Error menyebabkan pejabat mengabaikan motivasi politik Assange dan menganggap tindakannya sebagai bentuk permusuhan terhadap negara. Temuan juga menunjukkan bahwa faktor politis ikut mendorong strategi sekuritisasi yang bertujuan menekan bentuk jurnalisme baru yang dianggap membahayakan legitimasi dan stabilitas sistem politik. Kesimpulan, persepsi ancaman terhadap Assange merupakan hasil dari kombinasi bias psikologis dan kalkulasi strategis yang berkembang dalam iklim keamanan yang tertutup dan penuh tekanan.

Kata Kunci: Persepsi Ancaman, Julian Assange, Robert Jervis, Mispersepsi, Sekuritisasi, Kebebasan Pers.

ANALYZING THE UNITED STATES' THREAT PERCEPTION OF JULIAN ASSANGE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PERCEPTION AND MISPERCEPTION THEORY (2010–2012)

ABSTRACT

The emergence of Julian Assange and WikiLeaks posed a profound challenge to the post-9/11 security paradigm of the United States by exposing classified state activities through radical transparency. This study aims to identify the cognitive and political factors that influenced the U.S. government's threat perception of Assange during the formative period from 2010 to 2012. Adopting a qualitative case study approach and guided by Robert Jervis's *Perception and Misperception* theory, the research employs systematic document analysis of official records, governmental statements, and major media coverage. The findings reveal that two dominant cognitive mechanisms significantly shaped the interpretation of Assange's actions. The evoked set heuristic led policymakers to draw analogies between Assange and conventional national security threats such as terrorism and espionage. Attribution error further contributed to the dismissal of his ideological motivations and reinforced the assumption of hostile intent. These cognitive distortions were reinforced by strategic securitization efforts that aimed to suppress emerging models of digital journalism perceived as disruptive to the legitimacy and stability of state institutions. In conclusion, the U.S. threat perception of Assange was shaped by a complex interplay of psychological bias and deliberate political calculation intended to maintain control over the information environment.

Keywords: Threat Perception, Julian Assange, Robert Jervis, Misperception, Securitization, Press Freedom.