

**PERSEPSI ANCAMAN AMERIKA SERIKAT TERHADAP TIONGKOK
DALAM ISU PELARANGAN TIKTOK 2020-2025**

SKRIPSI

Diajukan kepada Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya untuk memenuhi salah
satu persyaratan memperoleh Gelar Sarjana Ilmu Sosial (S. Sos.) dalam bidang
Hubungan Internasional



Khoirun Nisa Ar Rakhmi

NIM 10010222009

**PROGRAM STUDI HUBUNGAN INTERNASIONAL
FAKULTAS ILMU SOSIAL DAN ILMU POLITIK
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA**

Juni, 2026

PERNYATAAN PERTANGGUNGJAWABAN

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Khoirun Nisa Ar Rakhmi

NIM : 10010222009

Program Studi : Hubungan Internasional

Judul Skripsi : Persepsi Ancaman Amerika Serikat Terhadap Tiongkok dalam Isu Pelarangan Tiktok 2020-2025

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Khoirun Nisa Ar Rakhmi

10010222009

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Setelah melakukan bimbingan terhadap Skripsi yang ditulis oleh:

Nama : Khoirun Nisa Ar Rakhmi

NIM : 10010222009

Program Studi : Hubungan Internasional

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Surabaya, 12 Juni 2026

Dosen Pembimbing,



Ridha Amaliyah, S.IP, MBA

NIP 198509172025212003

PENGESAHAN

Skripsi oleh Khoirun Nisa Ar Rakhmi dengan judul *Persepsi Ancaman Amerika Serikat Terhadap Tiongkok Dalam Isu Pelarangan Tiktok 2020-2025* telah dipertahankan dan dinyatakan lulus oleh Tim Penguji Skripsi pada tanggal 18 Juni 2026.

Tim Penguji Skripsi

Penguji I



Ridha Amaliyah, S.IP, MBA
NIP 198509172025212003

Penguji II



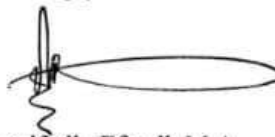
DR. Zudan Rosyidi, M.A
NIP 198103232009121004

Penguji III



Zaky Ismail, M.S.I.
NIP 198212302011011007

Penguji IV



Agus Syarifudin Efendi, M.A.
NIP 199308102025051002

Surabaya, 18 Juni 2026

Mengesahkan,

Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya

Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik

Dekan



Prof. Dr. H. Abd. Chalik, M.Ag.

NIP 197306272000031002

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NIM : 10010222009
Fakultas/Jurusan : FISIP / HUBUNGAN INTERNASIONAL
E-mail address : nisaarakhmi@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Khoirun Nisa Ar Rakhmi. *"The United States' Threat Perception of China in the TikTok Ban Issue 2020-2025."* UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, 2026.

This study examines the United States' threat perception of China in relation to the proposed TikTok ban between 2020 and 2025. As TikTok's popularity grew rapidly in the United States, concerns emerged regarding data security, algorithmic influence, and the potential relationship between ByteDance, TikTok's parent company, and the Chinese government. Within the broader context of intensifying technological competition between the United States and China, TikTok has come to be viewed not merely as a social media platform but also as a symbol of China's expanding technological influence in the global digital landscape. This research employs a descriptive qualitative method. Primary data were collected from official government documents, regulations, and public statements concerning TikTok, while secondary data were obtained from academic journals, books, research reports, and other credible sources. The analysis is based on Stephen M. Walt's concept of threat perception, which consists of four indicators: aggregate power, geographic proximity, offensive capability, and aggressive intentions. The findings reveal that the United States perceives TikTok as part of China's growing technological power. The platform is viewed as having significant influence within the U.S. digital sphere, the capability to collect large volumes of user data, and the ability to shape information flows through its recommendation algorithm. Furthermore, ByteDance's connection to China's legal jurisdiction, combined with the ongoing strategic rivalry between the two countries, reinforces concerns that these capabilities could potentially serve China's national interests. Although no publicly verified evidence demonstrates that the Chinese government has misused American users' data through TikTok, the platform's capabilities and the perceived intentions behind them have contributed to national security concerns in the United States. This study concludes that the TikTok ban reflects the United States' perception of China as a potential threat, shaped by assessments of power, digital proximity, capability, and intent. Consequently, the policy debate surrounding TikTok extends beyond data security and reflects the broader dynamics of technological and digital geopolitical competition between the two countries.

Keywords: Threat Perception, Stephen Walt, United States, China, TikTok, Technological Rivalry.

ABSTRAK

Khoirun Nisa Ar Rakhmi. *“Persepsi Ancaman Amerika Serikat terhadap Tiongkok dalam Isu Pelarangan TikTok 2020–2025.”* UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, 2026

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis persepsi ancaman Amerika Serikat terhadap Tiongkok dalam isu pelarangan TikTok periode 2020–2025. Meningkatnya popularitas TikTok di Amerika Serikat memunculkan kekhawatiran terkait keamanan data, pengaruh algoritma, serta potensi keterkaitan antara ByteDance sebagai perusahaan induk TikTok dengan pemerintah Tiongkok. Dalam konteks rivalitas teknologi yang semakin intensif antara Amerika Serikat dan Tiongkok, TikTok tidak lagi dipandang sekadar sebagai platform media sosial, tetapi juga sebagai representasi meningkatnya pengaruh teknologi Tiongkok dalam ruang digital global. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dengan memanfaatkan data primer berupa dokumen pemerintah dan pernyataan resmi terkait kebijakan TikTok, serta data sekunder yang diperoleh dari jurnal ilmiah, buku, laporan penelitian, artikel akademik, dan sumber kredibel lainnya. Analisis dilakukan menggunakan konsep *threat perception* Stephen M. Walt yang terdiri atas empat indikator, yaitu *aggregate power*, *geographic proximity*, *offensive capability*, dan *aggressive intentions*. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Amerika Serikat memandang TikTok sebagai bagian dari meningkatnya kekuatan teknologi Tiongkok. TikTok dipersepsikan memiliki pengaruh yang besar di ruang digital Amerika Serikat, kemampuan mengumpulkan data pengguna dalam jumlah besar, serta kapasitas memengaruhi arus informasi melalui algoritmanya. Selain itu, hubungan ByteDance dengan yurisdiksi hukum Tiongkok dan meningkatnya rivalitas strategis kedua negara memperkuat persepsi bahwa kemampuan tersebut berpotensi digunakan untuk mendukung kepentingan Tiongkok. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa pelarangan TikTok merupakan refleksi dari persepsi ancaman Amerika Serikat terhadap Tiongkok yang terbentuk melalui penilaian terhadap kekuatan, kedekatan digital, kemampuan, dan dugaan niat Tiongkok. Dengan demikian, kebijakan tersebut tidak hanya berkaitan dengan keamanan data, tetapi juga mencerminkan rivalitas teknologi dan geopolitik digital antara kedua negara.

Kata Kunci: Persepsi Ancaman, Stephen Walt, Amerika Serikat, Tiongkok, TikTok, Rivalitas Teknologi.

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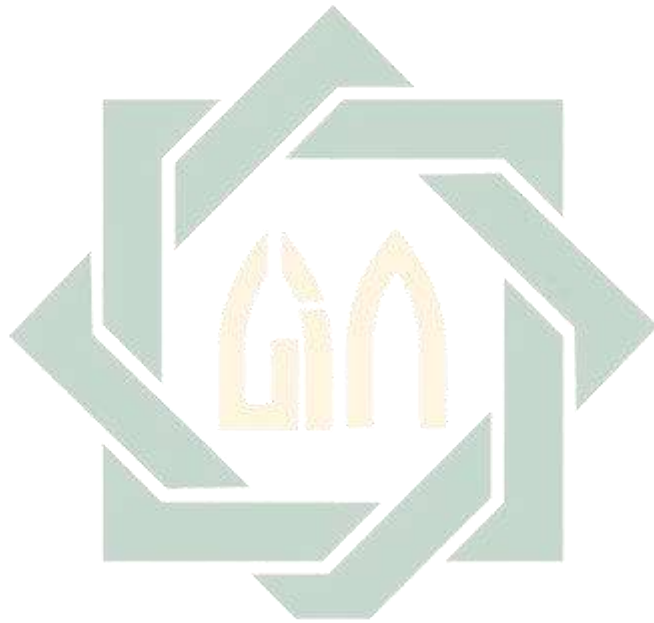
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