



Constructing Political Reality in International Crisis: Media Framing of Donald Trump's 48-Hour Ultimatum on the Iran-US/Israel Conflict

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ABSTRACT

Purpose of the study: This study aims to analyze the social construction of political reality regarding the Iran–United States/Israel triadic conflict in Indonesian online journalism, specifically examining how media framing of Donald Trump's 48-hour ultimatum shapes public risk perception and global moral accountability.

Methodology: This study employs a descriptive-interpretive qualitative design utilizing Robert N. Entman's framing analysis model. The data sources comprise representative news articles harvested from diverse Indonesian digital news platforms, including state-owned, market-driven, and independent networks. Data were systematically collected through non-participant observation and purposive digital screening, followed by text categorization based on Entman's four diagnostic functions: problem definition, causal diagnosis, moral judgment, and treatment recommendation.

Main Findings: The findings indicate that Indonesian online media generally transformed the military ultimatum into a broader social reality of global economic crisis centered on the Strait of Hormuz. Ideological variations significantly dictated the framing: market-driven platforms simplified crisis causality by placing explicit blame on Iran to amplify economic anxieties, whereas state-owned and independent media maintained institutional neutrality by balancing multi-actor political justifications. These structural variations confirm that media acts as an ideological apparatus that packages moral judgments, heavily governing public empathy and civic consciousness toward foreign crises.

Novelty/Originality of this study: This study contributes to communication sociology and social science by shifting from static bilateral conflict analysis to a multi-actor geopolitical triad during an acute escalation point. It uncovers the institutional maneuvering of media in a major Muslim-majority nation trapped between global economic dependencies, Islamic solidarity, and diplomatic neutrality, providing a crucial conceptual template for how reality is constructed under crisis-driven temporal constraints.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The conflict between Iran and the United States/Israel represents a deeply entrenched geopolitical tension in international relations, stretching back to the 1979 Iranian Revolution. This triadic relationship is driven not only by ideological antagonism, where Iran's Shiite theocracy explicitly rejects Western hegemony and Israel's statehood, but also by highly incompatible strategic ambitions in the Middle East [1]. While the United States and Israel implement regional containment policies through strategic alliances, Iran expands its influence through the "Axis of Resistance" network, leveraging non-state actors such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Palestine, and the Al-Assad regime in Syria [2]. These dynamics demonstrate that contemporary geopolitical friction is fought not only through conventional military engagements but also through complex discursive battles where media institutions actively contest and shape the meaning of global events [3], [4].

A pivotal moment in this triadic tension occurred when U.S. President Donald Trump issued a 48-hour military ultimatum to Iran regarding the Strait of Hormuz. This critical flashpoint did not merely disrupt bilateral diplomacy; it threatened Middle Eastern stability and triggered immediate global economic anxieties [5], [6]. In the digital era, such an international crisis is rapidly absorbed into the public sphere through online journalism. This is particularly evident in Indonesia, where digital infrastructure has grown exponentially. By 2026, internet penetration in Indonesia reached 230 million users (80.5% of the total population), supported by 331 million active mobile connections and 180 million active social media consumers [7]. This massive digital connectivity positions online news platforms as primary channels with immense structural power to filter global events and broadcast them directly into the domestic consciousness.

From a sociological perspective, media organizations do not operate as passive or neutral conduits of information. Rather, they function as powerful social institutions embedded within specific political-economic frameworks and ideological networks [8]-[11]. Consequently, news production is an active process of selecting, emphasizing, and omitting specific facts to construct a particular version of social reality. According to Robert N. Entman's framing framework, this construction operates through four structural functions: defining problems, diagnosing causes, making moral judgments, and suggesting remedies [12]. Through these mechanisms, media institutions translate distant, highly abstract geopolitical maneuvers into accessible social meanings, thereby serving as an ideological apparatus that heavily governs public risk perception, collective empathy, and civic consciousness regarding foreign crises [13], [14].

In the Indonesian context, this reality construction becomes exceptionally complex due to competing institutional pressures. As the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, Indonesian media organizations must navigate a delicate triadic tension: managing global economic dependencies, honoring deep-rooted transnational Islamic solidarity with Middle Eastern struggles, and maintaining alignment with Indonesia's official "free and active" (*bebas-aktif*) non-aligned foreign policy [15]-[18]. Thus, how domestic online media frame Trump's ultimatum determines whether the Indonesian public perceives the crisis as an imperialist threat to Islamic sovereignty, a justifiable counter-terrorism measure, or a standard diplomatic dispute [19].

A substantial body of literature has explored media framing within international crises. In global scholarship, Chodijah [20] discovered that media organizations frequently construct narratives that directly favor the socio-political interests of their corporate owners. Moving toward macro-ideological alignment, Oz [21] demonstrated that variations in international conflict coverage are structurally determined by specific state ideological orientations. In a broader cross-cultural context, Acquafu [22] asserted that Western and Middle Eastern media deploy fundamentally distinct framing paradigms, where Western outlets heavily prioritize national security parameters, whereas Middle Eastern media tend to amplify humanitarian and global justice dimensions. Within Indonesian domestic scholarship, framing variations regarding Middle Eastern geopolitical issues also reveal distinct patterns. Nuraini [23] highlighted that major news platforms operate under starkly different framing strategies when reporting conflicts in the region. Furthermore, both Septiani [24] and Arrosyid [25] observed that Indonesian media institutions frequently color their international coverage using a shared lens of transnational religious solidarity. Synthesizing these domestic behaviors, Eriyanto [26] suggested that such systematic framing differences among national media are structurally governed by ideological leaning, localized political interests, and targeted audience segmentation.

Despite these valuable contributions, existing literature suffers from two critical gaps. First, prior research remains heavily constrained by a bilateral paradigm (e.g., examining only Iran-Israel or Israel-Palestine dynamics), failing to deconstruct the Iran-United States/Israel relationship as an interconnected, triadic geopolitical whole [1], [27]. Second, previous studies have largely focused on static, prolonged conflict timelines, leaving a profound empirical gap regarding "moments of escalation" acute, time-sensitive crisis points where media institutions must operate under extreme temporal pressure, revealing their core ideological biases and institutional constraints [28]-[31].

To address these gaps, this study examines the social construction of political reality during a critical geopolitical flashpoint. The primary objective of this research is to analyze and compare how various Indonesian online media organizations, operating as distinct social institutions, utilize Entman's framing framework to interpret Donald Trump's 48-hour ultimatum. By shifting the focus from technical media comparison to a

sociological investigation of reality construction, this study offers a significant contribution to communication sociology and social science. It provides a vital conceptual template for understanding how digital media institutions in a non-aligned, Muslim-majority nation navigate structural tensions to govern public perception and shape moral alignment during international crises.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

2.1. Type and Approach

This study employs a qualitative research design using a framing analysis approach. Qualitative research is a method aimed at gaining an in-depth understanding of social phenomena through the interpretation of meanings contained in texts, events, or communication practices [32], [33]. This approach was chosen because this study does not focus on quantitative measurement but rather on interpreting the content of media coverage in shaping the reality of international conflicts. In this study, the approach used is Robert N. Entman's framing analysis model Entman (1993). Framing analysis is used to identify how Indonesian online media frame the Iran–United States/Israel conflict. According to Entman, framing can be analyzed through four main elements: defining the problem, diagnosing the causes, making moral judgments, and recommending solutions [34]. Through this approach, this study seeks to understand how the media not only convey facts but also shape public perspectives on the reported conflict [26].

2.2. Research Object

The subjects of this study are prominent news articles published by eight major Indonesian online media outlets: Detikcom, CNN Indonesia, MetroTVNews, Kompas.com, CNBC Indonesia, Tempo.co, Antara News, and Republika. These outlets were selected using a purposive sampling technique based on their extensive audience reach and distinct institutional and ideological positions within the Indonesian digital public sphere.

Detikcom and Kompas.com represent high-traffic mainstream commercial giants; CNN Indonesia and CNBC Indonesia reflect transnational corporate partnerships with a strong global economic focus; MetroTVNews is tied to a specific political-industrial conglomerate; Republika represents a distinct socio-religious orientation deeply rooted in Islamic solidarity landscapes; Tempo.co is widely recognized for its independent, critical investigative posture; and Antara News functions as the official state news agency, reflecting the formal diplomatic stance of the Indonesian government. Rather than rigidly categorizing these outlets under binary "pro" or "anti" labels, this study treats each selected news article as an independent unit of analysis possessing dynamic framing tendencies, ranging from strict neutrality to semi-neutrality, or exhibiting specific textual emphasis toward particular global actors.

2.3. Data Sources

The data sources for this study consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data consists of news articles from Indonesian online media discussing the 48-hour ultimatum issued by Donald Trump in the context of the Iran–United States conflict. Articles were selected based on their relevance to the research topic, the depth of their narrative, and their ability to represent media framing. Meanwhile, secondary data consists of scholarly literature such as books, journals, and previous studies related to framing analysis, media communication, and international conflict, which were used to strengthen the theoretical foundation and support the analytical interpretation process.

2.4. Data Collection Methods

Data collection in this study was conducted using the following methods:

2.4.1. Observation

Observations are conducted non-participatorily, meaning the researcher is not involved in the news production process but acts strictly as an analyst of the published content [35]. This unobtrusive digital observation approach ensures that the data remains natural and free from researcher interference [36]. The researcher analyzes how the media presents the 48-hour ultimatum and the Iran–US/Israel conflict across various news articles, focusing purely on the manifested textual structures [37].

2.4.2. Digital Search

Data retrieval was conducted using the Google search engine and the search features on each online media site. The search process utilized several key terms, namely “Trump’s 48-hour ultimatum to Iran” and “U.S. ultimatum to Iran.”

Preliminary research revealed a number of news articles from various online media outlets discussing this issue. Each keyword yielded a variety of news reports with different focuses, such as military, geopolitical, and global economic aspects, as well as diplomatic responses. This indicates that issues are selected and highlighted as early as the news production stage, as explained in framing theory.

Next, the data was screened based on its relevance to the research topic, the completeness of the information, and its connection to Entman’s framing elements. Articles that were duplicates, did not focus on the ultimatum issue, or lacked narrative depth were eliminated. As a result, seven news articles from seven different media outlets were selected as representative for further analysis.

2.4.3. News Selection

This selection phase aims to ensure that the data used is truly relevant and aligned with the research focus. The selection criteria used cover several aspects, namely the relevance of the issue where the news must specifically address the international crisis and geopolitical controversy regarding Donald Trump’s 48-hour ultimatum to Iran within the Iran-US/Israel conflict and the media source, which must be exclusively from the eight selected Indonesian online media outlets (Detikcom, CNN Indonesia, MetroTVNews, Kompas.com, CNBC Indonesia, Tempo.co, Antara News, and Republika); time period, meaning the news was published when the diplomatic and military crisis was trending; content completeness, which includes the presence of a headline, news body, and sufficient quotes from the involved state actors and sources; and diversity of perspectives, meaning news that includes informative, critical, commercial, or socio-religious viewpoints. Based on these criteria, the researcher then identified a number of news articles as units of analysis, which were subsequently analyzed using Robert N. Entman’s framing model.

2.4.4. Documentation

The documentation process involved collecting, storing, and archiving the selected news articles. The data were then categorized according to the needs of the analysis, specifically based on Entman’s framing elements. This documentation aimed to facilitate the analysis process and ensure the traceability of the research data.

2.5. Data Analysis Techniques

The data analysis technique used in this study applies Robert N. Entman’s framing analysis within a qualitative framework. The analysis process was conducted through three systematic stages: data reduction, matrix categorization, and interpretive synthesis. Following Entman’s model, each news article was analyzed across four functional dimensions: (1) Define Problems, which examines how the media identifies and presents the core essence of the international crisis; (2) Diagnose Causes, which isolates the powers, states, or actors deemed responsible for the escalation of the conflict; (3) Make Moral Judgments, which evaluates the normative values and ethical judgments embedded in journalistic narratives; and (4) Treatment Recommendations, which analyzes proposed solutions, military outcomes, or diplomatic solutions supported by the media [38].

2.6. Data Validity Techniques

To ensure the validity of the data, this study employed an audit trail technique. This technique involved systematically documenting the entire research process, from data collection and article selection to the categorization process based on framing elements, and finally the drawing of conclusions. All raw data in the form of news articles were stored and recorded in detail, including the reduction process and analytical decisions made during the study. With the audit trail, this study possesses transparency that allows the analysis process to be traced back by other researchers. Through this technique, the research results are not only interpretive but also possess credibility and are scientifically accountable in examining the media’s construction of reality regarding the Iran–United States/Israel conflict [32], [39].

2.7. Research Procedure

The comprehensive operational workflow in this study is organized in a logical sequence consisting of four consecutive phases. This workflow is visually depicted in the procedural flowchart in Figure 1.

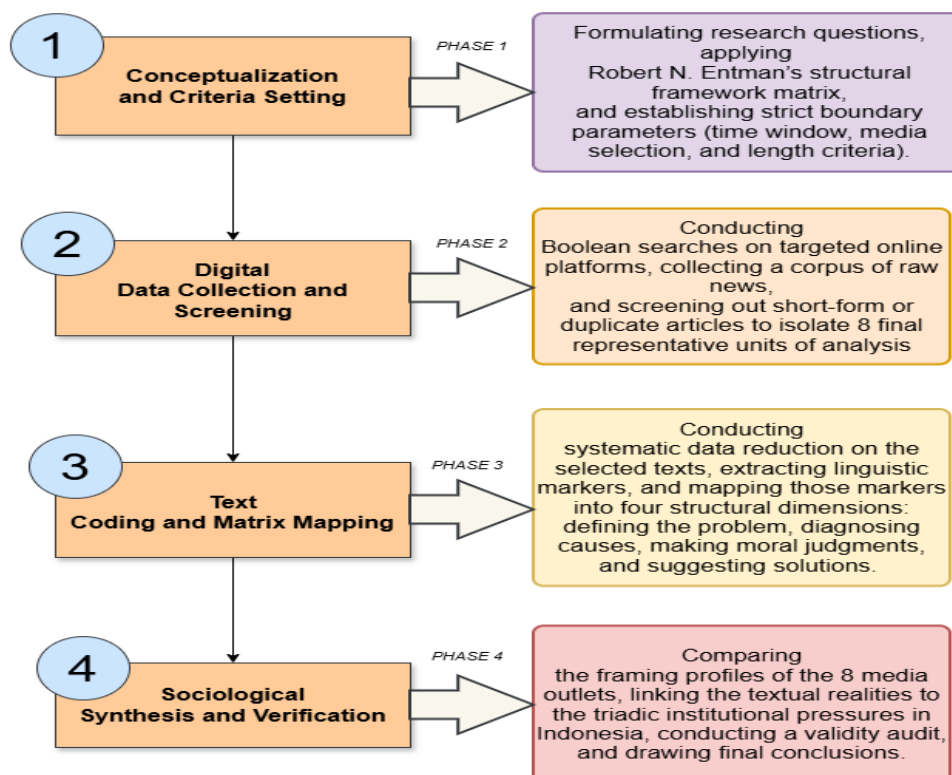


Figure 1. Research Procedure

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Detiknews Coverage of Donald Trump's 48-Hour Ultimatum

An article titled "Trump Issues Ultimatum to Iran: Open the Strait of Hormuz Within 48 Hours or Face a Power Outage," published by DetikNews (March 22, 2026), discusses the escalation of the conflict between the United States and Iran over the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The news narrative strongly emphasizes the global economic impacts, such as rising energy prices and inflation [40].

Table 1. Analysis of DetikNews Report

Element	Analysis Results
Define Problem	The main issue is framed as Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz triggering an international crisis and economic inflation.
Diagnose Causes	Iran is portrayed as the direct cause of the escalation, while U.S.-Israeli prior provocations are minimized.
Make Moral Judgment	Iran is implicitly judged as a threat to global stability, while the U.S. military threat receives moral legitimacy
Treatment Recommendation	The solution offered is strictly coercive: Iran must comply with the ultimatum or face U.S. military strikes.

This framing constructs a reality where Iran is positioned as the primary antagonist threatening global markets, while the United States emerges as a firm stabilizer. The lack of Iranian perspectives skews the text toward a Western-centric framework.

3.2 CNBC Indonesia's Coverage of Donald Trump's 48-Hour Ultimatum

CNBC Indonesia published "The World Waits Anxiously: When Will Trump's 48-Hour Ultimatum Expire?" on (March 23, 2026), focusing on the heightened global anxiety regarding energy shipping lanes [41].

Table 2. Analysis of CNBC Indonesia Report

Element	Analysis Results
Define Problem	The issue is framed as global economic uncertainty and systemic tension resulting from the U.S. ultimatum.
Diagnose Causes	Conflict is understood as a mutual, two-way escalation sparked by U.S.-Israeli operations and Iran's response.
Make Moral Judgment	Both sides receive equal moral weight, portraying a symmetrical conflict between two aggressive state actors.
Treatment Recommendation	Solutions remain within the framework of military retaliation, with no significant emphasis on diplomacy.

Unlike more asymmetrical coverage, CNBC Indonesia establishes a balanced construction of reality by giving equal weight to both Donald Trump's threats and Iran's retaliatory readiness.

3.3 CNN Indonesia's Coverage of Donald Trump's 48-Hour Ultimatum

A news article titled "Trump Issues Ultimatum to Iran to Open the Strait of Hormuz Within 48 Hours," published by CNN Indonesia on March 22, 2026, focuses on the economic implications of Trump's threat to destroy power plants in Iran [42].

Table 3. Analysis of CNN Indonesia Report

Element	Analysis Results
Define Problem	The issue is defined through market-driven terms, focusing on surging fuel and international oil prices.
Diagnose Causes	The cause is simplified to Iran's blockade, ignoring deeper historical or political root causes.
Make Moral Judgment	Iran is linked to negative global economic inflation, while the U.S. is portrayed as a previously restrained actor.
Treatment Recommendation	Reopening the strait is the primary solution, backed by the alternative of targeted military strikes.

The structural focus on economic data over political context reinforces a framing that privileges the immediate stabilization of global markets over geopolitical nuance.

3.4 MetroTVNews Coverage of Donald Trump's 48-Hour Ultimatum

A news article titled "Trump Issues Ultimatum to Iran to Reopen the Strait of Hormuz Within 48 Hours," published by MetroTVNews on (March 22, 2026), covers the ultimatum while highlighting the operational inconsistencies of the U.S. executive branch [43].

Tabel 4. Analysis of MetroTVNews Report

Element	Analysis Results
Define Problem	The situation is framed as a critical global crisis threatening energy stability and regional security.
Diagnose Causes	The direct trigger is Iran's action, though the text contextualizes it within an ongoing broader war.
Make Moral Judgment	Both actors receive critical evaluations; Trump is explicitly described as provocative and inconsistent.
Treatment Recommendation	The framework remains limited to military escalation or immediate Iranian compliance.

MetroTVNews adopts a semi-neutral stance. While it identifies Iran's role in the energy crisis, it actively scrutinizes Trump's erratic foreign policy maneuvers.

3.5 Kompas.com's Coverage of Donald Trump's 48-Hour Ultimatum

A news article titled "Trump Issues Ultimatum to Iran: Must Reopen the Strait of Hormuz Within 48 Hours," published by Kompas.com on March 22, 2026, provides a broader international context by highlighting how the conflict influences third-party nations like Japan [44].

Tabel 5. Analysis of Kompas.com Report

Element	Analysis Results
Define Problem	Framed as a multi-layered geopolitical tension affecting strategic global energy chokepoints.
Diagnose Causes	Understood as an interactive crisis; includes Iran's clarification regarding selective shipping restrictions.
Make Moral Judgment	Moral judgments are balanced; Iran is given proper space to articulate its defense against Trump's pressure
Treatment Recommendation	Outlines the primary demand for open lanes alongside potential bilateral military counter-escalations.

Kompas.com presents a comprehensive, close-to-neutral narrative by integrating multi-lateral diplomatic variables and direct defensive arguments from Iranian officials.

3.6 Tempo.co's Coverage of Donald Trump's 48-Hour Ultimatum

A news article titled "Trump Gives Iran 48-Hour Deadline to Open the Strait of Hormuz," published by Tempo.co on March 23, 2026, synthesizes evolving military data with macro-economic statistics [45].

Tabel 6. Analysis of Tempo.co Report

Element	Analysis Results
Define Problem	Framed as international security and economic instability arising from the Strait of Hormuz standoff.
Diagnose Causes	Attributed to Iran's threats against enemy vessels, combined with prior U.S. military operations.
Make Moral Judgment	Evaluates both actors neutrally, acknowledging Trump's erratic shifts and Iran's defensive readiness.
Treatment Recommendation	Centers on conflict dynamics, offering no structural focus on institutional diplomacy.

Tempo.co maintains a semi-neutral posture by detailing how both actors mutually drive the escalatory cycle, despite noting the economic fallout of Iran's maritime blockade.

3.7 Antara News Coverage of Donald Trump's 48-Hour Ultimatum

A news article titled "Trump Issues Ultimatum to Iran to Open the Strait of Hormuz Within 48 Hours," published by Antara News on April 5, 2026, places the ultimatum within the broader structural dynamics of Middle Eastern military campaigns [46].

Tabel 7. Analysis of Antara News Report

Element	Analysis Results
Define Problem	The issue is framed as a regional war escalation affecting global energy security, rather than a standalone ultimatum
Diagnose Causes	Causal links are tied to multi-directional strikes between the U.S., Israel, and Iran.
Make Moral Judgment	Rejects a singular moral culprit, depicting both states as active participants in a state of warfare.
Treatment Recommendation	Identifies the need for an agreement, though explicit diplomatic pathways are left unexplored.

Antara News produces a balanced account by avoiding unilateral blame, framing the crisis instead as an interactive chain of military causes and effects.

3.8 Republika's Coverage of Donald Trump's 48-Hour Ultimatum

A news article titled "Trump Issues Ultimatum to Iran, Demands Strait of Hormuz Be Reopened Within 48 Hours," Republika published an article on April 5, 2026, emphasizing the dramatic rhetoric of Donald Trump, who threatened that "hell" would be unleashed on Iran if the 48-hour deadline was neglected. The text links the crisis directly to global oil price volatility [47].

Tabel 8. Analysis of of Republika Report

Element	Analysis Results
Define Problem	Framed as Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz posing an immediate threat to international economic supply routes.
Diagnose Causes	Iran is isolated as the direct cause of market disruption, leaving Western military provocations as background notes.
Make Moral Judgment	Iran is implicitly judged as a disruptor of global economic stability, while Trump's harsh rhetoric is granted implicit legitimacy.
Treatment Recommendation	Proposes coercive containment; Iran must open the strait or suffer targeted U.S. military retaliation.

Republika constructs a reality that relies heavily on a U.S.-centric perspective. By emphasizing the dramatic economic threats, it provides a moral rationale for Western coercive actions while downplaying the root causes of Iran's defensive strategy rooted in regional solidarity landscapes.

3.9 Thematic Synthesis of Cross-Media Framing

To move beyond isolated media descriptions, Table 9 clusters the eight digital platforms into distinct thematic models based on their institutional positions and editorial tendencies.

Table 9. Grouping of Eight Digital Platforms into a Thematic Model Based on Their Institutional Position and Editorial Tendencies

Editorial Cluster	Outlets Involved	Primary Analytical Tendency	Ideological Alignment
Western-Centric Commercial	Detikcom, CNN Indonesia, Republika	Reductive focus on economic shocks; heavy reliance on U.S. executive sources; marginalization of Iran's defense context.	Asymmetric Pro-Western: Validates coercive enforcement.
Balanced Economic	CNBC Indonesia, Kompas.com	Focus on third-party market vulnerability; provides structural space for Iranian official rebuttals.	Symmetrical Neutral: Views conflict as a mutual bilateral interaction.
Critical-Analytical	MetroTVNews, Tempo.co, Antara News	Scrutinizes U.S. policy inconsistency; explores historical roots of U.S.-Israeli military provocations.	Counter-Centric Critical: Rejects binary actor simplifications.

3.10 Generalization of Findings: The Hegemony of Global Energy Frameworks

A holistic evaluation of the empirical data indicates a profound systemic convergence within Indonesian digital journalism: international conflicts are overwhelmingly interpreted through the restrictive lens of a global energy and economic crisis. Media platforms consistently anchor public attention to the commercial value of the Strait of Hormuz as a strategic chokepoint. Consequently, the public discourse is saturated with metrics of crude oil volatility, domestic inflation, and logistics disruptions.

Crucially, this commercial reductionism leads to a severe marginalization of humanitarian dimensions and diplomatic alternatives. Across all eight platforms, there is a total omission regarding the human cost of potential warfare, the civilian suffering caused by the destruction of Iranian power grids, or structured legal pathways for international arbitration. By reducing a volatile geopolitical flashpoint to a mere index of market stability, Indonesian media implicitly reinforces an escalation framework, which aligns with the tendency of commercialized digital journalism to prioritize market metrics over normative public interest [48], [49]. This structural pattern conditions how the domestic public internalizes global statecraft, training audiences to evaluate international crises through financial calculations rather than ethical, humanitarian, or cooperative parameters [38], [50].

3.11 Social Construction of International Conflict

Media organizations are not passive channels of objective international facts; they act as active agents of social construction that manufacture complex systems of social meaning [48]. Within Robert N. Entman's [38] framing methodology, this construction functions via the selective inclusion and exclusion of facts, which ultimately determines who is labeled the victim and who is branded the perpetrator.

In the coverage of the 48-hour ultimatum, commercial platforms (Detikcom, CNN Indonesia, Republika) utilize a simplified causal chain. By placing Iran's blockade as the isolated origin of the crisis, the texts socially construct Iran as the "perpetrator" of global economic hardship. Concurrently, Western hegemonic forces are cleansed of their aggressive actions and constructed as rational "defenders of market stability". Conversely, critical platforms (Tempo.co, MetroTVNews) disrupt this binary by integrating the provocative nature of U.S.-Israeli

strikes, demonstrating that perpetrator designations are not objective reflections of reality but structural assignments determined by editorial selection

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis using Robert N. Entman's framing model, this study concludes that Indonesian online media coverage of Donald Trump's 48-hour ultimatum to Iran does not merely report factual diplomatic events, but actively executes a calculated social construction of international conflict. The empirical findings reveal a structural bifurcation within domestic digital journalism, wherein commercial and market-driven platforms (Detikcom, CNN Indonesia, Republika) reduce the crisis to a Western-centric economic narrative that labels Iran as the sole "perpetrator" of global inflation, while critical-analytical platforms (Tempo.co, MetroTVNews, Antara News) disrupt this binary by integrating the provocative role of U.S.-Israeli military actions. Ultimately, a profound systemic convergence is observed across all platforms, showing that international conflicts are overwhelmingly interpreted through the restrictive lens of global energy frameworks and market stability, which leads to a total marginalization of humanitarian dimensions and diplomatic alternatives in the public sphere.

Theoretically, this research enriches media framing literature by bridging Robert N. Entman's micro-textual framing matrix with macro-sociological parameters, demonstrating that the structural functions of framing do not operate in a vacuum but are heavily governed by the institutional and ideological leanings of media houses within the Global South. Practically, this study provides a critical media literacy template for digital audiences to recognize how labels like "victim" and "perpetrator" are strategically assigned by editorial selection rather than objective realities, while simultaneously offering a reflective benchmark for journalists to avoid commercial reductionism that compromises complex geopolitical nuances. Furthermore, within the broader scope of social sciences, this study contributes to the intersection of political sociology and international relations by revealing how domestic media institutions act as active geopolitical agents, translating foreign policy crises into localized socio-political meanings while navigating the delicate triadic pressures of economic dependencies, transnational religious solidarity, and Indonesia's "free and active" (*bebas-aktif*) foreign policy. To expand upon these insights, future research should adopt a comparative cross-national framing approach by comparing Indonesian media with other ASEAN or Muslim-majority countries, and incorporate audience reception studies or digital sentiment analysis to empirically measure how these institutionalized media frames actually govern public risk perception and collective empathy.

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