

## **ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS**

### **Geopolitical Influence and the Dynamics of Regional Order in East Asia**

**by**

**Arianto Christian Hartono**

**Ph.D. in International Relations**

**International University of Japan, 2022**

**Professor Nawalage Seneviratne Cooray, Supervisor**

There are two identified gaps in the studies on regional order. Scholars of political science are yet to agree upon factors affecting the dynamics of the regional order and incorporating relevant regions (such as East Asia) as the case analysis to flourish the discussion. Thus, this dissertation aims to fill those gaps by: 1) proposing geopolitical influence as one of the factors affecting the dynamics of the regional order and 2) analyzing the regional geopolitics in East Asia. The dissertation answers the question of why there are dynamics in the regional orders of East Asia and how the geopolitical influence affects the regional order of East Asia. In order to answer those questions, this dissertation adopts a non-arbitrary weighting system to measure and analyze East Asian geopolitics. This dissertation furtherly develops the geopolitical influence model to measure the geopolitical influence of the U.S., China, Japan, and Russia in East Asia during the 2005-2018's period. The evolution over time, the role of relevant actors, and analysis at the regional and subregional level would be the basis of analysis of how geopolitics dynamically influence the regional order in East Asia. This dissertation contributes to the field of geopolitical and regional studies by: 1) proposing a scientific-based quantitative approach as an alternative way of geopolitical analysis, 2) providing a case study for further discussion, and 3) bridging classical geopolitics with the more up-to-date geopolitics.