

Dutch Colonialism and Imperialism on the Economic Condition of the Indonesian People

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Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui lebih jauh proses kedatangan bangsa-bangsa Barat ke Indonesia terutama awal mula kedatangan bangsa Belanda di Indonesia yaitu untuk memonopoli perdagangan terutama rempah-rempah di Nusantara yang diserahkan kepada pemerintah Belanda ketika VOC mengalami kebangkrutan, disamping itu juga kita semua akan tahu bagaimana dampak dari Kolonialisme dan Imperialisme yang dijalankan oleh pemerintah Hindia-Belanda terhadap pertumbuhan perekonomian rakyat Indonesia tahun 1596-1900. Metode yang digunakan adalah Metode Sejarah, yaitu: Heuristik, Verifikasi, Interpretasi, dan Historiografi. Hasil penelitian ini dapat mengetahui tentang motif kedatangan orang-orang Barat ke Indonesia yaitu sama dengan tujuan negara-negara lain yaitu untuk memonopoli perdagangan rempah-rempah di Nusantara, namun VOC dibubarkan pada tahun 1799 secara resmi dengan total utang sebesar 134,7 juta gulden kepada pemerintah Belanda, dan sebagai gantinya daerah kekuasaan VOC diambil oleh pemerintah. Mulai pada tahun itu juga secara resmi Indonesia berada langsung di bawah kekuasaan pemerintah Belanda dengan perwakilan pemerintah Hindia-Belanda, dalam melaksanakan Kolonialisme dan Imperialisme Belanda menggunakan beberapa cara yang sangat merugikan yaitu: Culturstelsel dan undang-undang agraria kolonial liberal.

Kata kunci: sosial, politik, kehidupan ekonomi.

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to find out more about the process of the arrival of Western nations to Indonesia, especially the beginning of the arrival of the Dutch in Indonesia, namely to monopolize trade, especially spices in the archipelago which was handed over to the Dutch government when the VOC went bankrupt, besides that we all will know the impact of colonialism and imperialism carried out by the Dutch East Indies government on the economic growth of the Indonesian people from 1596-1900. The methods used are historical, heuristic, verification, interpretation and historiography methods. The results of this research can find out about the motives for the arrival of Westerners to Indonesia, namely the same as the aim of other countries, namely to monopolize the spice trade in the archipelago, but the VOC was officially disbanded in 1799 with a total debt of 134.7 million guilders to Dutch government, and in return the VOC's territory was taken by the government. Starting from that year, Indonesia was officially directly under the authority of the Dutch government with representatives of the Dutch East Indies government. In implementing Dutch colonialism and imperialism, they used several very detrimental methods, namely: Culturstelsel, and liberal colonial agrarian law.

Keywords: social, political, economic life.

INTRODUCTION

The fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453 caused a break in trade relations between Europe and West Asia, so that

Europeans had difficulty getting spices. Because western (European) people really need spices as cooking spices and medicinal ingredients (Setiawan &

Kumalasari, 2018). Due to the high price of spices and the difficulty in obtaining them, western nations are trying to find their own spice income, especially in Maluku. The arrival of the Portuguese under the leadership of Vasco da Gama in 1498 succeeded in establishing their power in Calicut and Goa in India. Then in 1511, the Portuguese under the leadership of Alfonso D, Albuquerque also succeeded in capturing Malacca from the hands of Sultan Mahmud Syah. After taking control of Malacca. To make this wish come true, the Portuguese led by D, Abreau, sent their fleet to Maluku. In 1512 AD, Abreau arrived in Ternate. His arrival was initially well received, and he was even allowed to build the Sao Paulo fort in Ternate. But in the end the Portuguese became hostile to the people of Ternate because they imposed a monopoly on the clove trade (Kat Angelino, 1931).

After successfully controlling trade in Maluku, the Portuguese tried to expand their power in Sumatra, especially to control pepper, but encountered resistance from Aceh. Meanwhile in Java you have to deal with Banten and Demak. In the 16th century, Java had several countries that formed kingdoms, including Majapahit, Demak, Panjang, Banten, Cirebon, and Islamic Mataram. In fact, the natural wealth and economy of the Indonesian people were still growing very rapidly, before the influence of the VOC. Portuguese rule in Maluku ended after the

arrival of the Dutch in 1604 and they were moved to the east (Anggraeni & Setiawan, 2022).

So that the Spanish carried out the Magella Expedition in 1521 and arrived in the Philippines. Finally he arrived in Maluku in 1521. His arrival was well received. Meanwhile, the Portuguese, who had arrived in Maluku first, considered that Spain had violated the Toderillas agreement (7 June 1494) which contained the division of shipping areas. Finally, hostility cannot be avoided. To end the hostility, the two nations agreed to enter into a treaty in the city of Saragosa (Spain). On April 22, 1529, the Treaty of Saragosa was signed which contained the division of territories, namely Portugal in Maluku and Spain in the Philippines. Thus, Spanish influence in Indonesia was not that strong (Kartodihardjo, Sartono dan Marwati Djoened Puspongoro, 2010).

Even the British did not want to be left behind in discovering the spice production area, namely in Maluku. In 1591 James Lancaster stopped in Aceh. British efforts to control spice production areas became increasingly open after 1600 British traders formed the EIC (East Indian Company) in India. In 1604 Middleton succeeded in reaching Ternate, Tidore, Ambon and the Netherlands. However, in these areas the British had to deal with the Dutch (VOC), who first occupied the area. Britain was able to break Dutch (VOC) domination in Indonesia after

Governor General Lord Minto succeeded in forcing the Dutch out of Indonesia in 1811 and appointed Governor General Thomas Stamford Raffles. In essence, Raffles created an economic system that was free from all elements of coercion that were previously attached to the system of forced submission and forced labor carried out by the Dutch Companies (VOC) in collaboration with kings and regents. In concrete terms, Raffles wanted to eliminate all mandatory handovers and forced labor which during the VOC era were always imposed on the people, especially the farmers. To these farmers, Raffles wants to provide legal certainty and freedom of business. That Raffles in this case had been influenced by the ideals of the French revolution with the motto of "freedom, equality, and fraternity"(Rumila Sari, 2014).

Raffles himself opposed the VOC system because of his political beliefs, which can now be called liberal, and because he believed that the system of exploitation as practiced by the VOC was not benefit the Indonesian people. What he wanted as a replacement for the VOC system was an agricultural system in which farmers of their own free will planted cash crops that could be exported abroad. In this case the colonial government was only obliged to create all the necessary markets to stimulate farmers to plant the most profitable

export crops (Kartodihardjo, Sartono dan Marwati Djoened Pusponogoro, 2010).

In 1595 Dutch sailors under the leadership of Cornelis de Houtman set out on a voyage to look for spice production areas. In 1596 Conerlis de Houtman managed to land in Banten, but because their attitude was less friendly they were expelled from Banten. From Banten, Conerlis de Houtman then headed to Bali. After buying spices, the group returned to the Netherlands. In 1598 the second group led by Jacob van Neck arrived in Banten. His arrival was well received. So in droves Dutch people came to Indonesia. To avoid competition among the Dutch, on Johan van Oldenbarnevel's advice, in 1602 the Dutch royal government immediately formed a trade alliance in Indonesia called the VOC (Vereenidge Oost Indische Compagnie). The aim of the Dutch government in establishing the VOC was to compete with shipping and trade with Westerners (Portuguese and Spanish) who had previously existed. And to control/monopolize the spice trade in the archipelago (Kartodihardjo, Sartono dan Marwati Djoened Pusponogoro, 2010).

The existence of the VOC in Indonesia was the beginning of Dutch colonialism and imperialism in Indonesia which was delegated to the Dutch government in the early 1800s, known as the Dutch East Indies. As a result, the natural resources and energy of the Indonesian people are exploited. And it

makes the economic growth of the Indonesian people very disadvantaged and depleted until the Indonesian people end up starving and underdeveloped. And since the 1780s there has been an increase in costs and a decline in sales results, which caused losses for the trading company. This was caused by corruption, collusion and nepotism carried out by VOC employees in various regions, so the VOC contract which expired on December 31 1977 was officially dissolved. All activities, of course trade, were taken over by the Dutch East Indies government and since then its efforts have been emphasized on economic exploitation with political penetration until 1830.

The government was still experimenting with which type of exploitation was most suitable for generating profits. A bureaucratic administration system was introduced to support the entry of money through the land rental system. However, this effort failed and the government's finances ran out to finance the war in Ponegoro in 1925-1830. In 1830, forced cultivation was implemented by intensifying the traditional system existing in feudal ties. In 1848, forced cultivation came under heavy attack through Dutch parliamentary debates and writings condemning the inhumane practice. In 1870, forty years after forced cultivation, the Dutch received 823 million guilders.

METHODS

This research uses a type of historical research. The steps in historical research are as follows: heuristics, criticism (Wasino, 2020), interpretation, historiography. This writing is in the nature of a library study in obtaining sources of information through sources including; writing in the form of books, writing reports, journals, and documents (Bunari et al., 2023). According to the classification of historical sources, they are divided into two, namely; primary sources and secondary sources:

a. Heuristics

The first stage carried out by researchers was heuristics (Source Collection). Historical sources can be in the form of evidence (evidence) left by humans which shows all activities in the past in the form of relics or records (Dudung, 1999). This source was found in the Bima regional library, on the Internet, and archives can be obtained at certain offices or agencies. And the author conducted direct interviews with informants (oral sources)(Kartodirdjo, 2000).

The author of the history of Dutch Colonialism and Imperialism on the economic situation of the Indonesian people from 1596-1900 used two types of sources, namely the Second Source. Prime sources are the first sources used by researchers in writing history and are considered original sources (original) as

evidence that is contemporary with the events that occurred. The second source is a secondary source, which is a source in the form of testimony from anyone who is an eye witness or a source that comes from the original source in the form of literature. The technique in question is usually called heuristics, which comes from the Greek word *heuristik*, which means to obtain. Heuristics is a technique, an art, and not a science. Therefore, heuristics do not have general rules. Heuristics is often a skill in finding, handling, detailing bibliographies, or classifying and maintaining records (Dudung, 1999).

b. Criticism of sources/Verification

Source criticism or verification is testing the truth or certainty of historical sources. There are two types of criticism, namely external criticism and internal criticism to test the credibility of the source. External criticism in historical research generally concerns the authenticity or authenticity of the materials used in making historical sources. The form of research carried out by researchers, for example, is about the time when the document itself was created.

Internal criticism is research into the accuracy or authenticity of the historical source material itself. In the process of analyzing a document, researchers must think thoroughly about the relevant elements in the document itself. Elements

in a document are considered relevant if they are closest to what happened, to the extent that they can be ascertained based on a critical investigation of the best available sources (Dudung, 1999).

c. Interpretasi/Analisis

After the facts have been sufficiently expressed and discussed the problem under study, then interpretation is carried out, namely the interpretation of the meaning of the facts and the relationship between one fact and another fact. Interpretation of facts must be based on an objective attitude. Even if a certain matter is subjective, it must be subjectively rational, not subjectively emotional. Reconstruction of historical events must produce history that is true or close to the truth.

d. Historiography

Final activity of historical research (Historical Method) is to assemble facts and their meanings chronologically and systematically, to become a writer of history as a story. These two characteristics of the description must be truly visible, because these two things are part of the characteristics of scientific historical work, as well as the characteristics of history as a science. Apart from these two things, writers of history, especially scientific history, must also pay attention to the rules for writing

scientific papers in general (Dudung, 1999).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. The Beginning of the Arrival of the Dutch in Indonesia

When the Dutch first arrived in Indonesia, the motives for the arrival of the Dutch people were almost the same as those of the Portuguese. There are three (3) motives for the arrival of the Portuguese, namely religion, economics and adventure. So the arrival of the Dutch had two motives, namely economics and adventure. In 1585, when the Portuguese entered Spanish territory, the role of the Dutch who usually transported and spread spices in those parts of Europe ended. Therefore, the livelihood of the Dutch people in this field was lost. But as a result of the situation in Europe, they decided to take or buy spices directly from their country of origin, namely the Indonesian archipelago.

In 1595 the Dutch with a fleet consisting of four trading ships departed for Indonesia. The first voyage led by Cornelis De Hotmanitu experienced difficulties and suffering because he had no experience, so the voyage took a long time, namely fourteen months (Wijayati, 2011). When they arrived in Banten in 1596 they were welcomed by the Banten rulers, because at that time the Dutch had not shown a bad attitude towards the native people. For the first time they

wanted to be friendly and enter into a trade agreement with Banten. So the main target was the Banten market where spices were traded which at that time also collected products from the surrounding areas and also Maluku.

In 1596 the Amsterdam company for the first time sent a fleet of merchant ships consisting of four ships to Indonesia under the leadership of Cornelis de Houtman and on August 14 1597 it arrived again in Tessel. Following this, on May 1, 1598, the second generation was led by Van Neck. Van Warwijck. There were also several ships sent to Indonesia, some departing from Vlissingen, some from Middelburg, and some from Rotterdam (Tery et al., 2018). The third force sent by the old company departed from Amsterdam in April 1599, under the leadership of Van De Hagen, while the fourth under Van Neck departed in June 1600.

According to M. Sahari Besari European influence, especially the Netherlands, on the indigenous people of the archipelago is usually thought to have started with the landing of Cornelis de Houtman in 1596 in Banten (Besari., 2008). He came with the first trade expedition sent by the 'Compagnie van Verre' company from Amsterdam. The company was founded by seven traders who then prepared and financed four merchant ships to trade in the spice islands (specerij, spicery) following in the

footsteps of the Spanish and Portuguese who had preceded them. Navigation of the expedition was entrusted to Pieter de Keyzer and trade affairs were overseen by Cornelis de Houtman, but ultimate power rested with a council. The expedition left the Netherlands in 1596 and returned in 1598 (Besari., 2008).

When Houtman landed in Banten, what he found was a trading center with a large, bustling market. Trade activities at that time took place between native traders and their partners from foreign countries, including Portugal and Spain. At that time, Houtman was not very successful in carrying out large-scale purchases of his merchandise to be taken back to the Netherlands. Even though it was not very profitable from a trade aspect, the success of this voyage for the Dutch was a major event. This event became known as "de Eerste Schipvaart" (first sea voyage). At that time in the Netherlands there were many companies such as Compagnie van Verre carrying out the same activities and there was very tough competition between them with mutually detrimental consequences. Apart from that, they also still have to compete with various trading companies from various other countries, especially from Spain, Portugal and England. After experiencing various difficulties, finally on March 20 1602, the chairman of the State Council (Raadpensionaris) Johan van Oldenbarneveldt succeeded in uniting the

various trading companies in a trading organization called "Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie" (VOC, Kompani) (Besari., 2008).

B. VOC Activities in Indonesia

The arrival of the VOC in Indonesia increasingly burdened the native population, especially when they were given special parties listed in the octroi. With these special rights, the VOC became an autonomous government and trading institution in the colony. This expansion of VOC politics spread to almost all parts of Indonesia. The VOC exerted its political influence through agreements with local rulers. Control of trade was also carried out by conquest of power, but the VOC did not take over the power of the kings, but the VOC emphasized demands for recognition of its power in the form of handing over agricultural products from the population it controlled through the king or native heads it recognized. The form of production delivery is determined in two levee systems and a contingency system.

The existence of this production delivery system is increasingly detrimental and burdensome for the indigenous people. Goods grown by native people also had to follow the European market, so this was rejected by the people. Because this system forces residents to clear, cultivate, plant and harvest the results. Conditions like this added to the suffering and

increased poverty of the people, so that the people resisted VOC colonialism (Kartodirdjo, 2018).

C. Dutch Influence in Various Fields

In the political field, Dutch influence became increasingly strong thanks to its intensive intervention in internal matters so that it was able to control various places. Traditional powers, such as in changing the throne, appointing royal bureaucratic officials and participating in determining royal political policies, in the political field, traditional rulers are increasingly dependent on foreign powers so that their freedom in determining government matters is diminishing. Apart from that, the annexation of territories carried out by foreign rulers since the end of the 17th century resulted in an increasingly reduced income for traditional rulers.

1. Socioeconomic Sector

Their power was gradually reduced and further placed under the supervision of foreign officials, the workforce was involved in a system of economic exploitation. This situation created unrest in the life of the bumiputra chief. Especially in Java, agricultural production factors, including land and labor, were regulated according to the colonial system. Farmers were burdened with the task of cultivating part of their land to be planted with

export crops and were required to donate forced labor to the colonial authorities.

In other areas in Indonesia where maritime trade is the main source of life, such as the Maluku region, the control of coastal areas and the monopolistic actions in trade carried out by the Dutch, control of production areas, planting and export, is a big obstacle for local residents to earn income. These foreign actions created a feeling of antipathy among the native population, which at an increasingly critical time encouraged resistance.

The insistence on making agreements by the Dutch authorities towards the natives by ignoring the traditional values that prevailed in the local area, in addition to demands to recognize the presence of foreigners in that place, was seen by the natives as a violation of their sovereignty. This disappointment led to armed resistance in which the less powerful native rulers were forced to submit to foreign rule and their power was placed under colonial rule. Dutch efforts to expand their territory have had a political background to achieve economic goals. It is hoped that expanding the area will facilitate the collection of production results and obtain cheap

labor, in addition to facilitating business in the trade sector.

2. Cultural Sector

Strong challenges especially come from religious leaders who view life in the West as contrary to Islamic teaching norms. Chronic symptoms that often appear in traditional circles also add to the complexity of the situation. Symptoms of internal conflict between nations can be seen in the conflict between nobles in West Sumatra. The intervention ran parallel to the territorial expansion goals planned by the Dutch in their colonialism. Foreign interference that takes sides with one of the conflicting parties can cause violence, disappointment and reactions on the other side which can even lead to resistance.

During a critical situation, symptoms of grouping of parties pro and against foreign rule were visible, both among noble rulers and groups in society. In the kingdom, calls for opposition to foreign rule from nobles or influential clerics were easily received well by groups of people, who, because of the pressures of life they experienced, showed an antipathy towards foreign power. In this relationship, traditional ties in the form of obedience to superiors are a strong

factor in fulfilling the invitation to resist (Badrika, 2003).

These resistances were either in the form of major resistance, in the form of rebellions or just riots. Temporary resistance in this area does not mean ignoring other resistance that has flared up in certain areas, such as quite persistent resistance in Banten, resistance in South Sumatra, resistance in Tapanuli, in West Kalimantan, in North Sulawesi and in other regions in Indonesia which are forms of reaction to Dutch colonial rule. The consequences of VOC colonization in Indonesia. The entry of foreign power in Indonesia has caused changes in the political, social, economic and cultural order for the Indonesian people in various areas of life.

3. Political Sector

Daendles and Rafles have established modern government. The regents were made civil servants and paid salaries, even though according to custom, the position of regent was hereditary and received tribute from the people. The regent has become a tool of colonial government power.

Exploitation carried out by western nations had various impacts on the Indonesian nation. The emergence of the VOC trade

monopoly caused the decline of Indonesian trade on the international trade stage. The role of harbormaster was replaced by Dutch officials. The forced cultivation policy to the liberal economic system made the nation a producer of raw materials. The exporters were carried out by the Dutch, the intermediary traders were held by foreign easterners, especially the Chinese, and the Indonesians were only retailers, so they did not have the entrepreneurial spirit of new types of plants and how to maintain them (Hidayat & Setiawan, 2023).

CONCLUSION

In 1595 the Amsterdam company for the first time sent a fleet of merchant ships consisting of four ships to Indonesia under the leadership of Cornelis de Houtman and anchored slightly outside Banten, greeted with friendly gestures. Even though it failed to reach Maluku, Cornelis de Houtman's expedition paved the way for subsequent expeditions, and at the same time pioneered Dutch influence in Indonesia that would last hundreds of years. On August 14, 1597 the group arrived again in Tessel. The process of Dutch Colonialism and Imperialism began with the entry of Cornelis de Houtman's fleet in Banten, various methods were used by the Dutch government to obtain

spices, from trade monopolies, political policies carried out, such as Cultuurstelsel, Agrarian law (Liberal Colonial Politics), and Ethical Politics has changed the Dutch economy in a positive way but negatively for the Indonesian people.

So that farmers can get to know new types of plants, farmers can find out areas that are suitable for certain types of plants. Farmers can find out how to prepare land to grow crops. The increasingly rapid economic development encouraged the Dutch government to build infrastructure facilities in Indonesia, namely roads, railways, dams, irrigation systems and power generation centers. The number of schools being established for native groups is increasing, resulting in an educated Indonesian people. Apart from that, many agricultural lands are abandoned because farmers do not have time to work on their own land, harvests often fail, poverty, misery, hunger, disease outbreaks and death arise, as happened in the Demak (1848) and Brobogan (1849) areas. which resulted in massive deaths opened the government's eyes to the suffering of the people caused by forced cultivation.

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