

The Practice of Imperialism and Colonialism in Development and Their Impact on the Community Economy: An Overview

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ABSTRACT

This article describes the impact of development on the economy caused by the colonial government's practice of Imperialism and colonialism. Imperialism and colonialism assume that all wealth in a country belongs to the government. This practice has been going on for a long time since the Dutch colonial era, which is still felt today, even though Indonesia has become independent. These assumptions are eventually detrimental to society, especially in the economic aspect. In this case, the researcher wants to know how the effects of Imperialism and colonialism can affect the economy of the community, both in the past and in modern society today. In the results of this study, researchers found that there were still development policies in the colonial era that were still being implemented and significantly impacted society in general, especially in terms of the economy in Indonesia. The researcher used the descriptive qualitative method with a literature study. Researchers, in this case, will approach the economic and historical aspects more. This study only wants to see an overview of the impact of development on the economy that occurs in society.

ABSTRAK

Artikel ini menjelaskan mengenai dampak pembangunan terhadap ekonomi yang diakibatkan adanya praktek imperialisme dan kolonialisme yang dilakukan oleh pemerintah kolonial. Imperialisme dan kolonialisme merupakan sebuah asumsi yang mengartikan bahwa semua kekayaan di suatu Negara adalah milik pemerintah. Praktek ini sudah lama berlangsung dari era penjajahan Belanda yang sampai saat ini masih dirasakan, meskipun Indonesia telah merdeka. Dari asumsi tersebut kemudian akhirnya melahirkan dampak yang merugikan bagi masyarakat, terutama dalam aspek ekonomi. Dalam hal ini peneliti ingin mengetahui bagaimana dampak imperialisme dan kolonialisme ini bisa mempengaruhi ekonomi masyarakat, baik masyarakat terdahulu maupun masyarakat modern saat ini. Hasil dari penelitian ini, peneliti menemukan masih adanya kebijakan pembangunan pada jaman kolonial yang masih diterapkan dan memberikan dampak yang signifikan

terhadap masyarakat secara umum terutama dalam hal ekonomi yang terjadi di Indonesia. Dalam penelitian ini peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif diskriptif dengan studi kepustakaan. Peneliti dalam hal ini akan lebih melakukan pendekatan kepada aspek ekonomi dan sejarah. Penelitian ini hanya ingin melihat tinjauan umum pada dampak pembangunan terhadap ekonomi yang terjadi di masyarakat.



Introduction

Colonialism and Imperialism are old terms used by the colonialists in the former Dutch or Japanese era. When people hear again what colonialism and Imperialism are, what comes to their minds is colonialism and brutal coercion by the apparatus. But today, it is still felt. Indirectly, the government is implementing this practice in terms of development which impacts economic changes in the community.

The practice of colonialism and Imperialism that occurred in Indonesia has long appeared in the Dutch Colonial Era, for example, in the era of the construction of the Anyer-Panarukan road led by VOC General Daendels. In this era, Daendels launched a road construction program; he asked for help from the regents or regional heads along with the road construction. Daendels asked the regents to find laborers or workers to build roads. At that time, the Regent or the local area chair for the government system still used the feudal system, in which the people were asked to pay taxes to the government every year. The Regents used the effects of this feudal system to hire laborers to build roads without being paid (Djoko Marihandoko, 2017).

This case illustrates that the practice of extortion, coercion, and the government's arbitrary attitude towards the community is ingrained. The products of past colonialism have left a painful legacy on people's hearts whose impact can still be seen and felt. The government is so ignorant of the community that when it carries out development, it will also affect the community's economy. Soekarno made a development concept called Tri Sakti Bung Karno. The thought of Bung Karno's Tri Sakti concept is considered the antithesis of colonialism and Imperialism, which does not want exploitation and oppression between humans and humans. The meaning and substance of the concept are sovereign in the political field, independent in the economic area, and personality in the cultural field. The

implementation of the Soekarno concept was used as a stepping stone for development during the presidency of Abdurrahman Wahid to reject the contract extension of PT. Freeport thinks if this is done continuously, it will impact the country's economy, and Indonesia will experience permanent mental colonization (Al'fi Nasikin, 2015).

Soekarno's anti-imperialist attitude and colonialism were in contrast to the policies of President Joko Widodo, which invited foreign investors to invest and carry out development in Indonesia. One of the investors who invest the most in Indonesia is China. Soekarno believed that China's development model as an alternative way of modernizing Indonesia amidst the vortex of America's cold war with the Soviet Union (Istiqomah et al., 2021). Colonialism and Imperialism will be a form of foreign control and domination of a territory and population of a colonized country. The western nation can create a lasting dependence between the colonizing country and the occupied country in an authoritarian and exploitative manner. The legacy of Dutch policies in terms of the economy has changed the unequal economic structure between indigenous people and foreigners. The dualism born in the economy creates a glaring socioeconomic primal chasm. The separation between indigenous (traditional) economic actors and foreign (capitalist) actors creates social groups that cannot mix and tend to live separately (Zed, 2017). In this case, it is then essential for the community to understand the impacts of colonial and imperial heritage development that affect people's lives.

Literature Review

Imperialism and Colonialism

The theory of Imperialism is based on Marxism, which assumes that the wealth of the western nation is the result of theft, extortion, and exploitation. This is a historical fact because structural factors cause poverty in some developing countries. In other words, backwardness, ignorance, and poverty are deliberately created by political structures. This relates to the notion of development with economic measures. Development is defined as a continuous process of increasing per capita income through increasing the number and productivity of natural resources. Development is broadly defined as the constant improvement of a society or social system towards a better and more humane life. Development must make a significant contribution to the state and culture, lest the development being built now give suffering and misery to society and the economy (Dr. Adon Nasrullah Jamaluddin, 2016). Imperialism is based on economic-political relations (regional expansion). Imperialism emphasizes the qualities

of superiority or superiority. Besides aiming to increase economic income, Imperialism is also intended as part of colonialism (Miftakhuddin, 2019).

Meanwhile, colonialism is the delegation of political and economic power to deceive certain areas considered underdeveloped so they can take maximum advantage, which will later be fully controlled and controlled by the colonialists as the center of government control. Colonialism started from the search for products not obtained in one area, which were then searched for in other areas, so people created and built colonies in different places/regions. The term colonialism, which previously had a good image, has now turned into a wrong impression. Along with the emergence of an inflated sense of desire until it finally increases to the level of wanting to own and control, until eventually, a seizure of territory arises by forcing or using territorial expansion through war and conquest of the part you want to control. Starting from here, colonialism is synonymous with colonialism. Colonialism is the delegation of socio-political power. Zed Mestica (2009), in his essay entitled "How to Live as a Commoner," formulates the main characteristics of colonialism; first, colonialism has an oppressive character (oppressive) by forcing all the will of the rulers on the ordinary people. Many systems are imposed, such as legal, political-economic, and cultural. Second, colonialism is exploitative by draining the potential of natural and human resources to the fullest for the benefit of the rulers.

Third, colonialism is discriminatory in character and anti-democratic by creating a climate of eternal dependence between the rulers and the ordinary people. All are determined based on the hierarchy of power with the help of the feudal system that already exists in society. Fourth, colonialism has an expansive character that always wants to expand its political power from a small one to a bigger one. This is in line with the nature of capitalism under it, which always wants to get more significant profits than others (Miftakhuddin, 2019).

Method

This method uses qualitative research methods with literature review, namely conducting studies and collecting theories from several books, articles, and journals. In this context, the researcher will study in an external context in the sense of only looking at the widespread impact of development on the economy by understanding the situation and events caused by the practice of Imperialism and colonialism comprehensively and holistically (Pahlevinnur et al., 2022). The primary purpose of conducting a literature study

in this article is to examine the theoretical and practical aspects so that researchers can easily understand the problems that are the object of discussion.

Discussion

Understanding Imperialism and Colonialism

Imperialism and colonialism, these two terms have almost the same meaning, namely wanting to control the region and build a society that is still considered backward. Modern Imperialism replaces the position of *culturstelsel*, which is the embodiment of old Imperialism. This change only changes in form, turning into a more polite and refined look (Bey, 2004).

Colonialism is the delegation of political and economic power to deceive certain areas considered underdeveloped so they can take the maximum benefit, which will later be fully controlled and controlled by the colonialists as the center of government control. Administratively, this colonized area will later become a vassal state with a centralized government system and be directly responsible by the central government. Meanwhile, Imperialism is a territorial expansion that is taken by conquering or annexing an area with a colonial system of government (Miftakhuddin, 2019).

Imperialism and colonialism first appeared in Indonesia when the European colonizers came to Indonesia—from the French colonizers, England, to the Netherlands. It is recorded in history that the Indonesian people have experienced long-term colonialism by the colonial nation. Against this background, it is undeniable that the notions of colonialism and Imperialism have been around for almost 3.5 centuries. But now, even though Indonesia has declared its independence, the Imperialism and colonialism that were previously alive are not dead. Unconsciously colonialism has changed its face to neo-colonialism. Colonialism and Imperialism entered Indonesia by colonizing and exploiting Natural Resources (SDA) in classical times. Meanwhile, neo-colonialism in the modern era subtly uses natural resources.

Based on LP3ES, it is stated that the economic and political problems that occurred after the Proclamation became the entrance of neo-colonialism in the form of elite rulers (Dewi & Nurani, n.d.). The colonizers from Europe came because of trade matters, but over time this intention was deflected until finally, these Europeans colonized Indonesia. They come with their culture and customs in trading, such as the practice of capitalism. We know that most of mainland Europe is adherents of the Western Bloc, including the Netherlands. And the purpose of capitalism itself is to seek maximum profit and minimize production capital. From here then, they put it into practice in Indonesian society. Starting from this unhealthy trading

habit, the monopoly trade pattern emerged in KKN. In addition, before the invaders came, the practice of KKN existed in the archipelago, especially in the kingdoms of the archipelago. For example, there is a culture of gratification in giving gifts or crops to royal members so they can be raised in rank, and there are many other examples. This unhealthy economic and political practice has survived to this day.

After the arrival of the Western Colonials to Indonesia, there were changes in the socio-economic conditions of society. Every change has positive and negative impacts. The positive impact is a change in mindset and awareness in the community. In contrast, the negative impact is the fading of the community's cultural values and the occurrence of economic changes due to environmental changes and exploitation. The exploitation of the environment brings about changes in the community's economy. For example, people become more consumptive. Economic colonial exploitation was regulated by agricultural and plantation production factors such as the availability of land and labor for colonial interests. Farmers and planters still dominated the community's economy then, so exploitation was inevitable, forcing them to arrange for their land to be planted with export crops.

Meanwhile, those who do not own agricultural land are forced to do forced labor for colonial interests (Pangestu & Zulkarnain, 2020). Colonial aristocrats encouraged the development of agriculture and plantations and forced peasants to settle on their lands. According to farmers at that time, if they were forced to settle down, their life would also be more secure, and the risk of crop failure would be reduced. In addition, they will be better able to protect themselves in settlements from wild beast attacks. Apart from that, they are also required to pay high taxes for those whose lives have been guaranteed. Their guaranteed life seems forced because land ownership is a right for farmers, while everything is left to the colonials for water and irrigation. This is an example of the impact of the development of forced labor that occurred on the island of Java during the colonial period (Breman, 2010).

Thoughts on the theory of Imperialism and Colonialism raise various questions. Why did Europeans in ancient times expand out into other countries politically and economically? What is the driving motivation? The short answer is first because of someone's thinking that it is too idealistic, human thirst for power, and human greed. However, the government denied it and argued that this was in the common interest. However, the people directly affected by this development gave another assessment that the government now does not care about the environment and natural resources. The government should be able to protect the available natural resources by making policy regulations to reduce and prevent over-

exploitation that threatens the economic availability in the area future (Drajat Tri Kartono & Nurcholis, n.d.).

Government involvement in protecting the community is something that must be done for the realization of social justice for the community. There are four main functions of government in its involvement in development sectors, especially in the economic field. The first is the distribution function, the allocation function, the stability function, and the justice function. The allocation function is made in regulatory deliberations to divide resources according to what has been determined. The distribution function is carried out to achieve justice and fairness for investors who have sacrificed time and effort shared by everyone. The process of justice is also necessary for the government for those who are not impartial. To be following the principle of justice, and the last is the stability function which is carried out to achieve stability in the policies made by the government to the people (Adam & Surya, 2013).

Conflict Theory and Impact of Colonialism and Imperialism Practices in Indonesia

The most famous adherent of conflict theory is Karl Marx. He assumes that someone in power is not someone who occupies a superior position as functionalists believe. This view is one of the ideologies used by elites to justify themselves at the top and seduce the oppressed into believing that their well-being depends on the stability of society. According to Karl Marx, human history is the history of class-making, meaning that the colonizers who rule over natural resources and their power is only used to oppress the people below them, and the groups below try to fight back and dominate again. Karl Marx believed the colonized would try to overthrow the colonialists through a revolution. The oppressed must fight rationally to regain their rights (Zuber, 2013). If it is related to colonialism and Imperialism in Indonesia, Indonesia has overthrown this oppressive practice through the revolutionary path led by Soekarno. The overthrow of the colonized provides a new opportunity for Indonesia to make changes and innovations in eradicating the remnants of colonialism.

Colonial colonization of developing countries still leaves an impact on the mentality of the colonized nation. This fact continues to live even though the era has changed into the post-colonial period (Post Colonial). One of the nations that have experienced the impact of colonialism is Indonesia, which then affects the social and economic life of the indigenous people (Bahardur, 2017). As an agricultural country, Indonesia has become a magnet for Western nations to colonize Indonesia.

From the Colonial Age, Indonesia became the largest export country in agriculture and plantations, which eventually brought about economic changes in society and later gave birth to the feudal system that occurred in several regions in Indonesia (Pangestu & Zulkarnain, 2020). The impact of colonialism nested in the economic aspect of Indonesia. This structure impacts millions of Indonesians still living in hunger and poverty. For him, there is something wrong with the practice of Western Imperialism and Colonialism in Indonesia. A mistake that makes most people live in poverty while the elites have abundant prosperity (Dewi & Nurani, n.d.). The impact is felt both in classical society and in modern society. Each effect has positive and negative implications. An example of the positive impact of development that has occurred in the community was when the Dutch Colonial built a railroad on the island of Java, which in this development economically, the community was helped by this development, the economic community began to develop a little, for example, as many markets or places to sell for people to trade. However, the negative impact is that many indigenous workers are forced to work day and night, which results in many people, especially men, getting sick and even dying from exhaustion (Ashari, 2020).

Conclusion

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that the theory of Imperialism and colonialism assumes that the wealth belonging to the West results from theft, extortion, and exploitation. Before the arrival of the Western Colonials to Indonesia, Indonesia was an agricultural country rich in agricultural products in the form of gardens and farming products. These abundant natural resources have made Indonesia the largest spice-producing country in the world. This has become a magnet for Westerners to come to Indonesia. At first, they came peacefully. Over time, dissatisfaction emerged from the hearts of the colonizers who intended to control the natural resources. As a result of this discontented attitude, the terms colonialism and Imperialism were born. These two terms are inseparable units. Colonialism and Imperialism are characteristics a colonizer possesses to control wealth as a whole and seize it by force. This practice has been going on for centuries, which endow the impact on changes in people's behavior. Of course, this impact is the most felt in the economy. This colonized mentality has been ingrained in regional officials in Indonesia by applying the feudal system to the indigenous people. This mentality of colonizers and inhabits even now still dominates human thought. In terms of development, in the Soekarno era, Imperialism and colonialism were attitudes of a form of colonialism that had to be crushed. As an anti-colonial and imperial figure, Soekarno made western nations angry

with his anti-foreign policies, making it difficult for foreigners to invest in Indonesia. This, of course, will impact the community's economy, which will also be more difficult if foreigners again colonize human natural resources. The impact of this development will be felt in the future when Indonesia's natural resources are completely depleted. This impact provides a long-lasting change in the mindset of the Indonesian nation.

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