

Social and Economic Conditions of The United States of America During the Civil War 1861-1865

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Abstract: In the long history of struggle of the Indonesian nation, at a certain period of time during the Dutch colonization, there was a war that made colonialists experience difficulties. The war was caused by the resistance of a Javanese nobleman named Prince Diponegoro, this war was called the Diponegoro War or known as the Java War. Because of the unprecedented amount of popular resistance, the losses suffered by both the colonizers and the Javanese people were very large, both human and material casualties, this was closely related to economic conditions during the war and after the end of the war. This paper aims to analyze and describe the consequences of the war that occurred at that time on the Dutch colonial as well as on the Javanese people themselves, from an economic aspect. Research through a qualitative approach with a descriptive method, namely literature study and usually historical research using heuristic methods. The results of the study stated that the consequences of the Java War were very significant in affecting the lives of Javanese people and the Dutch colonial after the war.

Keywords: Economic Conditions, History, Impact, Java War.

A. Introduction

Every conflict that occurs around the world, always begins with something behind it. This conflict creates a new history for the country or group that experienced it, even for the world. With the number and development of conflicts that occur, world history will also experience development. Usually, these conflicts occur due to power struggles, invasions and expansion from one country to another and even the desire to dominate other regions and countries. From an economic point of view, this conflict greatly affected the state of the country. Some of the consequences are poverty caused by the non-working of the domestic industry, many people who die because of prolonged conflict, it can even cause an economic crisis which eventually causes the country to go bankrupt (Arifin 2022).

One of the major conflicts that occurred was the horizontal conflict that occurred in America. America, which is currently known as a super power country which is the

mecca of various schools of modern life, has experienced a dark side in the history of its nation. This conflict occurred around 85 years after its independence in 1776 which means that a country that has reached the age of independence does not guarantee that the country is free from conflict (Saputro 2021).

The background to the conflict in America was the occurrence of slavery. This slavery problem has occurred since 1830. However, this problem made the situation between North America and South America worse. The US government or known as the "Union" seeks to eliminate the practice of slavery carried out by the US confederation group where this group is allied with the southern states.

Based on its socio-economic conditions, the US is divided into two parts, namely the northern part where the industrial and manufacturing sectors are growing rapidly and is a slave-free region or free state with a stronghold on "Union". Then, the southern part which is still relatively underdeveloped where they still depend for their economy on the agricultural sector, especially cotton and they are allied with the confederation group where they are still pro against the practice of slavery or slave state. The map of the 2 US strongholds (Saputro 2020).

Conditions in the northern region tend to be more developed and developing. Massive industrialization and infrastructure have made this northern region have a more prosperous and liberal standard of living and culture. This fostered an anti-slavery public sentiment that was supported by the Free Lands Movement which was vehemently opposed to the extension of slavery to the non-state West.

This condition is different from the southern region where this region is an agricultural area where people still depend on agricultural products, especially cotton, they still need slaves to work on the agricultural land. Without agricultural slaves, who are identical with black people, the income of landowners will be affected where these slaves are an important factor in production.

It is this difference in conditions between the northern and southern states that causes the relationship between the people in these two states to begin to strain. However, this conflict continued to heat up with the emergence of voices that wanted the abolition of slavery and the many abolitionism movements in the northern states. The southern region responded to the phenomenon of the rejection of slavery by threatening to separate from the US and then become independent. As a result, the problem of slavery developed and became a complex and dilemmatic socio-political problem that led to war in the United States.

B. Methods

This study uses a qualitative research method, which is a method that emphasizes an in-depth understanding of the problem by examining the problem case by case. According to Saryono (2010), qualitative research is research that is used to study, find, describe and explain the characteristics or characteristics of social influence that cannot be explained, measured, or explained by a quantitative approach.

The approach used is a historical approach that will explain the history of the civil war in America and the impact it experienced. The historical approach is a research approach that examines something that happened in the past. Several stages are carried out in this historical approach, namely the first is heuristic, namely where researchers first look for sources to obtain historical data or evidence (Sjamsuddin, 2007). At this stage, the researcher begins to search for and collect relevant sources of information by reading and researching some secondary data through articles from national and international journals, books, e-books, and other relevant reading materials.

The second stage is source criticism. This stage has its own challenges because it faces great difficulties in historical research, especially because historical truth itself cannot be obtained directly and historical sources are incomplete (Sjamsuddin & Ismaun 1996). According to Kuntowijoyo (2005), this stage consists of two steps, namely external criticism to examine the authenticity of the source, and internal criticism to examine the credibility of the source.

The third stage is interpretation. This stage is carried out by interpreting the facts obtained from the source and studying the images. The facts that have been obtained and linked to each other are then sorted and translated which are relevant to support the writing of the article.

The final stage is historiography. This stage will produce a synthesis of thoughts from all the findings or research as a whole that has been carried out by historians in writing historical works which are not only related to the ability to use quotations, but also to think critically and analytically (Sjamsuddin, 2007). Historiography as an effort to rewrite history through the stages of research, and reporting of the results presented based on the research that has been done. This section is an explanation of the methods, time, subject, and instruments, which are used briefly, clearly and in detail in the studies conducted.

D. Results and Discussion

The American Civil War was a war that occurred from 1861 to 1865 in the United States. This war took place between the United States (Union or North) with the

American Confederation (south). This war was one of the first wars to show industrial warfare in human history (Haines, 2010). The main cause of this war was the debate over the licensing of slavery which would develop in the west thus leading to more slave states, or preventing their development, which would bring slavery to its end. Civil war broke out between the northern states allied with the union and the southern states allied with the confederation.

The seeds of war between the “union” and the Confederation actually started since, around the beginning of the 19th century when the term free state or free states appeared in the north and slave states or states in the south. The problem became hotter in 1819 when the Missouri region which is located in the south wanted to become a new state in the United States and wanted to become part of the confederation. However, this is debatable whether Missouri is included as a state in the north or in the south, because if it enters the northern state, then the north will become the majority state in parliament and vice versa. The Missouri problem was finally resolved with the joining of Missouri to the Confederate stronghold and a new state appeared in the north, namely Maine joining the union camp (Saputro 2022).

By 1830, the abolitionist movement was growing and voices for abolition were increasing in the north. This was intensified by the publication of a novel about the suffering of a black slave written by Harriet Beecher Stowe entitled “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”. This of course made the southerners even more angry and threatened to become independent and in the end 7 states in the southern region consisting of Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Florida and Louisiana established a new state which was named the “Confederacy of America” (Confederacy of America). Confederate States of America) and chose Jefferson Davis as their leader and set their capital at Richmond, Virginia. The establishment of the confederation was also triggered by the election of Abraham Lincoln as the new US president where he opposed slavery and would abolish slavery in the US.

Conflict tensions increased with the establishment of the two camps Union and Confederacy. Neither side wanted to give in and eventually civil war ensued. This civil war is divided into three phases, namely the first battle in the eastern region. In this battle, the southerners won the war with the success of their troops occupying Fort Sumter in South Carolina, followed by the joining of the states of Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia and Arkansas. The success of the Confederate forces in the Eastern War continued until August 1862 when the battle took place at the Bull Run River and they managed to push back the Union troops so they continued their plan to invade Maryland by crossing the Potomac River. However, during the battle on the Antietam River, the Confederates suffered a defeat that claimed 23,000 lives. But this did not make them give up, which was then continued by attacking the union in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania with the aim of wanting to take over Washington. They suffered another defeat due to fierce resistance from the union side and they could no

longer carry out a large-scale invasion of the north as they had already lost a large number of troops. This union victory added to the popularity of Abraham Lincoln and he issued the Emancipation Proclamation regarding the liberation of slaves throughout America.

The second phase is the battle in the western region. This battle took place in the vicinity of the Mississippi River where this river is a vital route to the Atlantic Ocean. In this battle, the Confederates suffered many defeats, such as battles on the banks of the Winston River, then in Arkansas and in Tennessee, although at first, they managed to push back the Union troops from Shiloh, Tennessee. The confederation's defeat still didn't make the union happy, because they still couldn't conquer Vicksburg so they changed their war tactics. The result was that in July 1863 the Confederates were again defeated, and the Union troops succeeded in controlling the area around the Mississippi River. The confederation's defeat continued when the union managed to take over Chattanooga which is part of the state of Tennessee and is the route to Georgia and Virginia where the states have the capital of the confederation so that the opportunities for the union to conquer the confederation are wide open (Duha and Saputro, 2022).

The third phase, which was the end of the civil war phase, occurred in 1864. In this phase, the union adopted total war tactics at the suggestion of Ulysses S. Grant, who was the highest military leader of the union. Total war tactics, namely tactics of destroying important buildings belonging to the Confederates such as houses, roads and farms to completely defeat the Confederates and then could not continue the fight. This plan became known as the "Grant's Overland Campaign".

At first, this tactic failed and the Union was always driven back by the Confederates. Then Grant changed the location of the attack to the south side of the opponent's defense. This plan succeeded in suppressing the Confederate troops and making them burn down the city of Atlanta and leave it in September 1864. The union was increasingly successful in controlling the area in the south while the confederation was increasingly pressured because only Virginia was left as the only state that was still under the leadership of the confederation. At that time, the confederation appointed a new supreme military leader, General Robert E. Lee. But these steps also did not lead to victory. In fact, in early April 1865, the capital city of Richmond and the city of Petersburg were successfully controlled by the Union. General Robert E. Lee then fled and fled west, but they soon realized they had lost. On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee finally surrendered to the Union in Virginia, which was followed by other generals on the Confederate side. Thus, the entire territory of the confederation in the southern region became part of the United States of America and this civil war ended which was complemented by the death of president Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865 as a result of being shot by John Wilkes Booth.

The influence of the Civil War on US social, military and economic conditions

1. Social Conditions

One of the causes of the United States Civil War was the enslavement of white people against black people. This slavery has occurred since the first discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus. In general, slaves came from prisoners of war or someone who failed to pay off their debts (Mutawally, 2021). Then this slavery increased when Europeans came to America. The slave trade began by buying slaves from Africa, who incidentally were black, to do jobs such as building infrastructure.

Slavery occurred in the southern region of the US where most of the citizens were white people and were nobles who came from the British aristocracy where they liked to put pressure on their citizens. Then these people created an arbitrary system of slavery in agriculture. This gave them an advantage where slaves were the main support in the economy so they insisted on maintaining slavery. The slavery practiced by the southerners was rough, where they treated slaves who were human beings as objects that could be traded.

Residents in the southern region were greatly helped by the presence of these slaves, because these slaves were used as agricultural laborers for them, where cotton farming in the southern region was very famous. Actually, Abraham Lincoln did not plan to change the policy of the institution of slavery, but in September 1862, president Abraham Lincoln issued the emancipation proclamation promising to free all people and slaves in the southern region. This was done because Abraham Lincoln saw that emancipation would win support from Europe and would add personnel to their army. In the end, slavery was abolished in the United States with the issuance of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

In contrast to the conditions in the southern region, where the majority relied on the agricultural sector and still supported slavery, in the northern region the residents had a better quality of life, for example from education and employment, many started working in industry, becoming teachers, doctors and so on. They also did not support slavery.

The civil war that lasted for 4 years has consumed a lot of energy and caused bloodshed. Confederate casualties are estimated at 360,000. After the war ended, efforts to reunification again states that joined the confederation experienced difficulties. This is because the soft reconstruction planned by Abraham Lincoln was opposed by congress on the grounds that those who had seceded should be punished with the fullest weight. The confederation felt angry and unhappy so that their people felt inferior due to losing to the union. Prosperity and the economy in the southern region have also decreased and the level of hatred sentiment between residents of the

northern and southern regions has become high. The people of the southern region also began to hate black people because they were the ones who lost the southern region in this civil war.

Even so, currently the United States has become a super power country and the authority and honor of the US has increased sharply in the eyes of the world because they have proven that they can maintain their country's unity even though it was rocked by civil war. Even though many of its citizens are still racist against black citizens, there has even been persecution against black police in 2020.

2. Conditions of the US Military

The civil war between the unions and the confederations gave a change to the excellent military strength, especially the navy. Neither the union nor the confederation did anything to improve the capabilities of their warships. Stephen Mallory who was the secretary of the Confederate Navy, sent representatives to Europe to purchase warships, refinance union ships seized or sunk, made every effort to arm and employ southern owned ships in Confederate harbors. The two sides also increased their naval budget allocations to buy new war equipment. Both camps also made increased use of steam power, screw propellers, projectile weapons and rifle armament. They also built armored part of their warships and even used submarines to trick their opponents.

3. Economic Conditions

From 1815 to 1861, the northern states' economies underwent modernization and diversification. Northerners, who are mostly better educated, have invested in a wide and varied transportation system, such as roads, canals, steamships, and railroads. Apart from that, the financial industry is also experiencing developments with more banking and insurance. Large communication networks such as printing newspapers and magazines also developed. Inexpensive books became widely available which accompanied the use of the telegraph.

This is in contrast to the economic conditions in the states in the south. The majority of people in the southern region still depend on agricultural products, especially cotton. Many of them invested in slaves where they believed that slaves were an important factor in their cotton farming production system.

In the civil war that occurred, the union and confederation paid a lot of war costs. According to Goldin and Lewis (1978), the costs of war are divided into two groups, namely direct costs which include state and local government expenditures plus losses caused by the destruction of property and the large number of victims who died, and indirect costs of war which include implications -implications arising from the war

after 1865. Goldin and Lewis (1975) estimate the combined expenditure of the two sides at \$6.6 billion in direct costs with each region bearing about half of the total costs. Of course, this amount is quite a large amount because these costs are not yet the total indirect costs.

With such a large amount, the two warring parties were forced to borrow on an unprecedented scale to finance this war. The unions were in a better position to meet the costs of this war, because the markets and industry in the north were so good that they could produce their own goods for the war. The greater northern sophistication and market size meant that the Union government could invoke institutional arrangements that allowed a more efficient system to direct resources into wartime production.

In contrast to conditions in the South, the confederation relied heavily on external resources and direct intervention in the production of goods and services to meet their wartime needs. In the end, the domestic economy could not survive under the pressure of these efforts. The union also blocked the confederation by closing the cotton trade routes from the south. Not only external southern trade with Europe, but also coastal trade which had become such an important element in the antebellum transport system, that it could lead to the collapse of the Southern war effort in this civil war (Ransom, 2002).

E. Conclusion

The American civil war was the first modern war in world history, actually this civil war was a transitional war that had a huge impact on the development of weapons technology and modern techniques. Various innovations have emerged in this war such as the use of Tangguh ships, trains, the use of telegraphs and newspapers, the use of rifles, projectiles and machine guns, and even the use of total war tactics during the battle in the western region. This civil war also involved many troops from both sides and also claimed many lives. In this US civil war, there were two opposing camps, namely the union camp and the confederation camp. This battle was caused by the practice of slavery in the southern region where the northern region opposed the practice. In addition, the different economic conditions between the northern and southern regions also became one of the triggers for this civil war. After various battles occurred, the union finally won this war and succeeded in controlling the southern regions which joined the confederation camp and the system of slavery which became a problem in this war was successfully abolished with the release of the 13th Amendment to the American Constitution.

Various social conditions were affected by this war, starting from social, military, political and economic conditions. The social conditions of the people of the United States have experienced many changes, especially in the southern region, many have

lost their wealth and their families. The military conditions where many technological innovations of war strategy occurred during this war, as well as the economic conditions of the people of the United States experienced many problems and changes. However, this war ultimately did not make the US lose its country, because this is proven by the increasingly advanced and developing lives of US society, even the United States is now a super power country in the world. Therefore, we as Indonesian people can take positive things from this war, such as the government and political elites must always pay attention to the equal rights and obligations of all citizens without discriminating against ethnic origin, race and religion so that a sense of unity and unity in the entire community so that there are no more attempts to break away from the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. The government should also strengthen the element of military defense and involve all Indonesian citizens by raising awareness that defense and national unity are the joint responsibility of all Indonesian people.

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