

Java War and the Social and Economic Impact

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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

The Java War (1825-1830) was a major conflict that occurred in Indonesia between the Dutch colonial government and Javanese nobles from the Mataram Kingdom of Yogyakarta. The Diponegoro War took place in the 19th century on the island of Java, with the parties involved in the dispute being Prince Diponegoro as the leader of the resistance against the Dutch with the help of the people, scholars and some nobles who were sympathetic to the suffering of the people and palace life interfered with by Dutch interests. Among the scholars and nobles who participated with Prince Diponegoro in the resistance against the Dutch were Prince Mangkubumi, Sentot Alibasya Prawirodirjo and Kiai Mojo (Saputro 2021).

The conflict between the palace and the Netherlands was triggered by various complex and multi-dimensional factors, including the conflict over land policy carried out by the Dutch, who seized land owned by the people for plantation and colonization purposes. However, there was a special reason that triggered resistance against the

Dutch, namely when the construction of one of the roads in the Tegalrejo area, it broke through Prince Diponegoro's land and dismantled Prince Diponegoro's ancestral burial ground which caused Prince Diponegoro to be eliminated from power because he refused to compromise and expressed strong resistance. This in addition to angering Prince Diponegoro, also caused feelings of discontent among the Javanese elite and encouraged some of them to ally with Prince Diponegoro in resistance to the Dutch.

Another cause was the power competition between various parties within the kerton, both among local rulers, and among the royal family. Prince Diponegoro himself was dissatisfied with his position in the royal hierarchy and felt that his interests were not recognized by the Dutch, due to the influence of the Dutch henchman, Patih Danureja IV (Arifin, 2022). In addition, one of the important factors that participated in triggering the Java War was the condition of economic difficulties experienced by the people. The economic crisis and the difficulties of the people of Mataram at that time which were inversely proportional to the pro-Dutch palace elite also worsened the situation. At that time many people lived in poverty and social injustice, which added to dissatisfaction with the Dutch colonial government (Saputro 2022).

The Java War itself basically did not start from Prince Diponegoro's side, but instead began with a Dutch attack on June 20, 1825, marked by cannon fire and the burning of mosques and other buildings by the Dutch, therefore Prince Diponegoro ordered the people to move to Selarong and there also expressed resistance to the Dutch. Prince Diponegoro was appointed as the highest leader with the assistance of Prince Mangkubumi as advisor and Prince Hangabehi as special advisor and Kyai Mojo one of the scholars who supported the resistance (Prakoso, 2021).

The popular resistance led by Prince Diponegoro in the Java War was fierce, victory and defeat alternated between the two sides. However, in general, more often the victory was on the side of Prince Diponegoro. The strategy carried out by Prince Diponegoro's troops was to carry out a universal war with guerrillas where the participation of the people who supported the struggle had a very large contribution. One of the factors that supported the victory was the availability of logistics, at that time logistics lines were built from one region to another to support combat needs, namely by building dozens of gunpowder or bullet powder depots in the forests and at the bottom of the abyss, the production of gunpowder and bullets continued while the battle took place. In addition, accurate information about the enemy is also provided by couriers and cipher searches, in the form of enemy strength, distance and time, terrain conditions and rainfall (Rusyadi, 2022).

For the Dutch this war was a tiring war both in terms of tactics, strategy, personnel and material losses as well as economic and financial. This complex problem caused the Dutch to work hard to quickly end the war, both by diplomatic means and by dishonorable means. In an effort to resolve the Java War, the Dutch used far more

advanced weaponry, they gained experience from the Napoleonic War where in open combat using infantry, cavalry and artillery troops. However, the results achieved were still not satisfactory, so the Dutch changed their tactics and strategies by running Fort Stelsel, namely establishing forts in every area they controlled, thus narrowing the guerrilla movement of Diponegoro troops (Ariwibowo, 2021).

In the end, the Java War was ended after Prince Diponegoro's resistance was further weakened due to the dishonorable Dutch methods in arresting his aides, namely Prince Mangkubumi and Kyai Mojo, including in the arrest of Prince Diponegoro himself in Magelang. With the arrest of Prince Diponegoro and subsequent exile in Manado, the Java War ended in 1830.

The Java War, which lasted for five years from 1825 to 1830, caused heavy losses to the Dutch economy. Some of the economic impacts of the war on the Netherlands, including that the Diponegoro War cost the Dutch colonial government a huge amount. According to some sources, the cost of this war amounted to about 50 million guilders at the time. This cost greatly impacted the Dutch economy as it lowered the profits gained from colonization in Java. Next was the disruption of agricultural production in Java, which was one of the main resources for the Dutch. The supply of rice and sugar from Java was reduced due to the war, so the Dutch had to find supplies from other regions and countries, this had an impact on the rising price of rice and sugar in the Netherlands (Saputro 2020).

In addition, economically the Diponegoro War also disrupted trade between the Netherlands and Java, because of the vast area of war, namely from the Yogyakarta region, expanding towards West Java and East Java, namely the Pacitan area. There were several attacks on the Dutch trading group, which was attacked by Diponegoro troops to obtain logistics during the battle, therefore trade between the two sides was disrupted. This led to a decrease in the profits earned by the Dutch from trade with Java.

B. Methods

The method used in this study is qualitative data, namely library research related to the object of research or the beginning of library data. Thomas et al., (2022) states that the sources used in qualitative research include textbooks, scientific journals, statistical references, research results in the form of theses, dissertations, the internet and other relevant sources.

The technique used in data collection is library data collection, namely materials that are coherent with the object of discussion (Arikunto, 1990). Data in the literature is collected and processed by editing, organizing, and finding research results.

D. Results and Discussion

This research was carried out by reviewing literature with the awareness that science will increase continuously, using heuristic historical research methods. Historical research with the heuristic method is an approach used by historians to obtain historical data by conducting investigations and searches for various historical sources. The stages in the heuristic method include problem determination, data collection, source review, interpretation and writing (Muljana, *Historical Methodology*, 1983).

Researchers put problem formulations and research questions on the basis of thinking based on relevant theories. The use of relevant theories is used as a reference in the process of preparing research questions to obtain the data and information needed. These theories are also used in research development during the assessment and data analysis stages to answer problem formulations and research questions.

Historical Theory

This theory examines history by considering the social, political, and economic context at the time of the event. In the context of Dutch colonialism, this theory can be used to examine the social, political, and economic context of the time Dutch colonial policies were implemented in Indonesia and their impact on Indonesian society. Historical theory is a theory that studies human history comprehensively and critically, with the aim of understanding history and drawing lessons from past experiences. This theory puts forward the idea that history is not just a fact or chronology of events, but also includes cultural, economic, political, and social aspects that occurred at that time. Kuntowijoyo (1992) taught that historical theories should be critical and avoid dogmatic attitudes in interpreting historical facts (Kuntowijoyo, 1992)

Theory Postcolonial

Postcolonial theory is an intellectual perspective that explores the effects of colonial power, either directly or indirectly, on culture, politics, and economy in the post-colonial world. The postcolonial perspective rejects the views of colonialism and imperialism, and explores how a nation's identity and culture can be shaped and changed by colonial (Said, 1978) influences. A theory that states that colonialism affects the perspective and life experience of colonized people. it can be used to examine how Dutch colonialism influenced the perspective, culture, and identity of the Indonesian nation.

Critical Theory

This theory sees colonization as a form of domination and exploitation that affects power, social, and cultural relations in society. In the context of Dutch colonialism, this theory can be used to examine power and social relations between colonial rulers and indigenous peoples, as well as their impact on Indonesia's progress and independence. Critical Theory in historical studies is also an approach in the discipline of history that takes inspiration from critical philosophy and critical theory. This approach emphasizes that knowledge and understanding of history are not only influenced by historical facts and sources alone, but also by ideology, political interests, and socio-culture. Therefore, critical theory in history expands the scope of historical research by considering hidden, neglected, or neglected dimensions in the dominant historical narrative (Said, 1978).

The Java War was a crucial moment in Indonesian history, where there was great resistance to Dutch colonialism. The importance of Prince Diponegoro's role in leading the resistance, one of which was due to the attitude of the Dutch who were considered unable to resolve the conflict fairly and peacefully. In the same book, Ricklefs also describes the social, political, and economic background of this conflict, including the factors that prompted the Diponegoro rebellion, the war tactics used by the Dutch, and the impact that the war had on Javanese society. In addition, this book also discusses the social, political, and economic changes that occurred in Java during the 19th century more broadly. This book became one of the main references in the study of modern Indonesian history (Ricklefs, 2008).

The war that occurred during the Dutch colonial period, especially in the Diponegoro War has an understanding as a universal war, consisting of universal, popular and territorial as has been conveyed in several historical literatures. In essence, a universal war is a war that involves the people with their respective roles throughout the region in accordance with their potential and changes in contemporary patterns that develop as a force of resistance or due to the development of situations and conditions of resource capabilities that force to fight by means of universal war or total war (Ariwibowo, 2021).

According to historian Slamet Muljana in, the Java War was a war that claimed very large casualties and caused great damage in Java. He also highlighted the cooperation between the Dutch and the Javanese kings which was collaborative in fighting popular resistance. Slamet Muljana also stressed the importance of the role of nationalist figures in reviving the spirit of resistance against the invaders after the war ended. (Muljana, 1985).

The Diponegoro War had a huge impact on Indonesian history, some of these impacts include (Muljana, 1985): 1) Weakening Dutch colonial rule: The Diponegoro War

became one of the largest and most successful resistance of the Indonesian people against Dutch colonialism. Although Diponegoro eventually lost the war, the resistance by the Javanese inflicted heavy losses on the Dutch and weakened their colonial power in Java; 2) Changing Java's social structure: The Diponegoro War triggered major changes in Java's social structure. Peasants and ordinary people who had no political influence had previously become more active in the struggle against Dutch colonialism. In addition, the Diponegoro War also triggered a shift in the power structure in Java, where village chiefs and local figures became more important in the government; 3) Raising national awareness: The Diponegoro War also played a role in raising national awareness in Indonesia. The struggle of Diponegoro and the Javanese people against Dutch colonialism became an inspiration for future nationalist movements; and 4) Triggering economic change: The Diponegoro War also triggered economic changes in Java. Agriculture and trade in the war-torn areas suffered great damage, which impacted the economy of the area. In addition, Dutch troops also carried out destruction and confiscation of valuable objects and art artifacts in Java.

Overall, the Java War is considered a pivotal moment in Indonesian history, where there was strong resistance to Dutch colonialism. This conflict cost huge lives and caused great damage in Java, as well as changing the political and economic dynamics in the region. The impact of the Java War can be described as follows: 1) in the appearance of the Java War on the Indonesian economy as a whole, that the Java War had changed the course of Indonesia's economic development at that time, by reducing Java's economic strength and strengthening Dutch influence in the Indonesian economy. Therefore, the Java War had a significant economic impact in Indonesian history. The Diponegoro War caused great damage to infrastructure and agricultural production in Java. Damaged infrastructure includes roads, bridges, irrigation, and other important buildings. Agricultural production such as rice and sugar also declined due to war and various other factors such as drought, pests, and crop diseases; 2) deteriorating economic conditions due to the war also affected trade in Java. The market becomes unstable and trading activities become hampered. This worsened the economic condition of people in Java, especially farmers and traders. The Diponegoro War caused significant damage to infrastructure, agricultural production, and trade in Java, which at the time was the center of economic activity in Indonesia; 3) in the short term, for the Javanese people, the Diponegoro War caused economic losses to the Javanese people, especially farmers and traders. Damage to infrastructure and a decline in agricultural production lead to price instability and food availability in the market. In addition, trade was also hampered, thereby reducing traders' income and worsening people's economic conditions; 4) in the long run, the Diponegoro War had a greater impact on the Indonesian economy as a whole. This war marked the beginning of Dutch colonialism which further strengthened its dominance in Indonesia. The Dutch began to expand the exploitation of Indonesia's natural resources such as mining products, forests, and plantation plantations, which

in turn increased Dutch influence in the Indonesian economy. Therefore, the economic impact of the Diponegoro War on Indonesia went beyond the economic losses incurred during the war. The long-term impact includes changes in the direction of Indonesia's economic development (Duha and Saputro, 2022).

This war had a significant impact in the economic context, Dutch losses in the Diponegoro war were very large. This war cost the Netherlands enormously, both in terms of military budget and economic losses caused by the conflict. In addition, this war also disrupted trade routes and hampered economic activity in war-affected areas, including Java and its surroundings. In addition, the Diponegoro war also affected relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands. Public disillusionment and dissatisfaction with Dutch colonialism intensified, and eventually led to nationalism and the struggle for Indonesian independence. In the end, the Diponegoro war showed the high spirit of resistance of the Javanese people against Dutch colonialism and caused many losses to the Dutch, both in the form of finance and human resources. This war also affected relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands, and became the starting point of the nationalism movement and the struggle for Indonesian independence.

E. Conclusion

From the analysis and literature study conducted, it can be concluded that the Java War or Diponegoro War occurred because of problems between the Dutch colonial and Javanese people in In Yogyakarta and its surroundings, this conflict arose as a result of complex and multidimensional problems in which the Dutch themselves were involved. As the excesses of Dutch interference in the internal palace conflict, the Java War was not started by Prince Diponegoro, but basically began by the Dutch themselves by carrying out an attack first against Prince Diponegoro's position, thus causing popular resistance.

The war that occurred as a result of the conflict was getting bigger and bigger and on the part of Prince Diponegoro himself unwittingly had carried out a universal people's struggle or war. This caused difficulties and losses both personally, materially and economically for the Netherlands. All resources and efforts were deployed by the Dutch to quell Prince Diponegoro's resistance, one of which was with the tactic of Fort Stelsel to narrow the movement of Diponegoro troops, so that Economically, Dutch colonial funds were siphoned off to fulfill the implementation of the fort tactics.

The resistance of Prince Diponegoro along with his followers has had a significant impact on social and economic aspects. In the social aspect, the struggle of Prince Diponegoro and all his followers has raised awareness of the nationalism movement and the struggle against the invaders, because it has been proven with Dutch military superiority however had been able to be made to endure severe difficulties during the

Java War. From an economic perspective, the Java War had caused huge economic losses to the Dutch, but the impact affected both the Dutch and the Dutch Javanese society. For the Dutch this made an excuse to further increase the income of the colonies and for the people of course became increasingly under heavy economic pressure as a result of this colonial dominance, besides that the long-term economic impact is coloring Indonesia's economic development.

The conclusion of the above writing is important considering that the writing of history about Dutch colonialism with social and economic impacts is quite rarely discussed. So far, historical discussions related to the Java War and several major wars in the archipelago during the Dutch colonial period tend to be only from the aspect of universal war. This is expected to be a novelty in the discussion of the Java War from a different perspective, so it is expected that there will be a discussion similar to this in more depth in the future upcoming.

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