



INTISARI

Penelitian ini mengkaji kehidupan orang Eropa yang mengalami kemiskinan relatif di Jawa pada periode 1870–1935. Selama ini, historiografi Indonesia cenderung menampilkan orang Eropa sebagai kelompok kaya dan eksploitatif, sementara historiografi metropol lebih menekankan peran mereka sebagai agen peradaban. Representasi tersebut menutupi kenyataan bahwa terdapat orang Eropa yang hidup dalam kemiskinan, baik Indo maupun totok, dari kalangan sipil maupun militer. Penelitian ini berupaya menjawab pertanyaan mengenai siapa yang termasuk dalam kategori orang Eropa miskin, bagaimana keseharian mereka bertahan hidup dalam kemiskinan, serta bagaimana bentuk kontrol yang dijalankan pemerintah kolonial dan gereja terhadap kelompok ini. Metode yang digunakan adalah metode sejarah, mencakup heuristik, verifikasi, interpretasi, dan historiografi. Sumber utama diperoleh dari arsip, laporan, dan surat kabar kolonial Belanda melalui ANRI, Perpurnas, Delpher, Anna's Archive, serta koleksi digital lainnya.

Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kemiskinan orang Eropa di Jawa disebabkan oleh beragam faktor. Orang Indo-Eropa umumnya terhalang oleh faktor struktural seperti diskriminasi rasial, terbatasnya akses pendidikan, dan persaingan kerja, sedangkan Eropa totok menjadi miskin karena gaya hidup konsumtif, krisis ekonomi 1921, serta Depresi 1930-an. Dalam keseharian, mereka mengembangkan strategi bertahan hidup yang kerap tidak sejalan dengan citra superioritas rasial. Mereka bertahan hidup dengan cara berburu, berjualan sabun, mengamen, mengemis, tinggal di kampung, bahkan dengan masuk Islam dan menanggalkan status Eropa sebagai cara menegosiasikan ulang identitas yang dibentuk oleh elite kolonial. Penelitian ini juga memperlihatkan bahwa gereja dan pemerintah kolonial memandang kemiskinan orang Eropa sebagai ancaman simbolis terhadap superioritas rasial. Karena itu, berbagai mekanisme kontrol dijalankan melalui panti asuhan, filantropi, regulasi sosial, koloni pertanian, hingga repatriasi. Namun, kontrol tersebut tidak sepenuhnya berhasil karena orang Eropa miskin memiliki preferensi dan praktik hidup yang sering kali berbeda dari kehendak elite kolonial. Dengan demikian, penelitian ini membuka perspektif baru dengan menghadirkan sub kelompok Eropa yang terpinggirkan sekaligus memperlihatkan rapuhnya klaim superioritas Eropa di Jawa.

Kata kunci: orang Eropa, Indo, totok, kemiskinan relatif, gereja, pemerintah kolonial, negosiasi.



ABSTRACT

This study examines the lives of Europeans experiencing deprivation in Java during the period 1870–1935. Historically, Indonesian historiography has tended to portray Europeans as a wealthy and exploitative group, while metropolitan historiography has emphasized their role as agents of civilization. Such representations obscure the reality that there were Europeans living in a state of deprivation, including both Indo-Europeans and totok (full-blooded), from civilian as well as military backgrounds. This research seeks to identify who fell into the category of deprived Europeans, how they navigated their daily survival amidst socioeconomic deprivation, and how the colonial government and the church exercised control over this group. The study employs the historical method, encompassing heuristics, verification, interpretation, and historiography. Primary sources were obtained from archives, reports, and Dutch colonial newspapers via ANRI, the National Library (Perpusnas), Delpher, Anna's Archive, and other digital collections.

The findings indicate that European deprivation in Java was driven by diverse factors. Indo-Europeans were generally hindered by structural factors such as racial discrimination, limited access to education, and labor competition, whereas totok Europeans fell into deprivation due to consumptive lifestyles, the economic crisis of 1921, and the Great Depression of the 1930s. In their daily lives, they developed survival strategies that often contradicted the image of racial superiority. They survived by hunting, selling soap, busking, begging, living in kampongs, and even converting to Islam and renouncing their European status as a means to renegotiate the identity constructed by the colonial elite. This study also reveals that both the church and the colonial government regarded European deprivation as a symbolic threat to racial superiority. Consequently, various mechanisms of control were implemented through orphanages, philanthropy, social regulations, agricultural colonies, and repatriation. However, such control was not entirely successful, as deprived Europeans held preferences and life practices that often diverged from the will of the colonial elite. Thus, this study offers a new perspective by bringing to light a marginalized European subgroup while exposing the fragility of European claims to superiority in Java..

Keywords: Europeans, Indo, totok, deprivation, church, colonial government, negotiation.