

ABSTRAK

Periode Liberal adalah periode ketika ekonomi negara kolonial menganut prinsip perdagangan bebas. Selama Periode Liberal, sistem yang pada masa Tanam Paksa semi tradisional dirasionalisasi, dengan harapan sistem baru yang berlandaskan kebebasan individu ini bisa membuka kesempatan ekonomi sama besar bagi semua golongan masyarakat yang ada di Hindia Belanda. Pada periode ini, perkembangan ekonomi Salatiga mencapai puncaknya, namun kontras dengan semua itu, masyarakat pedesaan Salatiga, yang menyumbang bagian terbesar dalam demografi *afdeeling* ini, justru masih cenderung terikat dalam ekonomi pra-kapitalis sampai dengan 1930. Penelitian ini mencari tahu sebab dari mengapa masyarakat Salatiga, terutama yang tinggal di pedesaan, tidak ikut mengalami perkembangan pada masa ekonomi liberal. Untuk dapat mengetahui hal tersebut, pertama-tama dilihat seperti apakah kebijakan-kebijakan liberal di Salatiga, dan sejauh mana persentuhan masyarakat pedesaan Salatiga dengan kebijakan-kebijakan tersebut. Setelah itu, dibahas faktor-faktor apa yang membuat masyarakat Salatiga tidak dapat memanfaatkan peluang ekonomi selama Periode Liberal. Sumber yang digunakan berupa arsip resmi pemerintah kolonial, terbitan dari lembaga lain yang sezaman, buku-buku, artikel, dan foto. Berdasarkan pembacaan atas sumber-sumber tersebut dan analisis penulis, didapatkan kesimpulan bahwa ekonomi masyarakat pedesaan Salatiga juga turut berubah pada masa Liberal, hanya saja belum sampai kepada level yang semutakhir ekonomi kelompok masyarakat lainnya. Dalam merespon kesempatan ekonomi yang terbuka luas waktu itu, masyarakat pedesaan Salatiga hanya mampu terlibat sebagai pelaku ekonomi kelas dua. Kebijakan-kebijakan bernada pembangunan seperti pendidikan, yang sedianya mengagendakan peningkatan SDM di kalangan mereka belum sempat mencatatkan perubahan signifikan sampai dihentikan oleh krisis di sekitar 1920-1930.

Kata Kunci: Salatiga, ekonomi pedesaan, Periode Liberal, rasionalisasi, pra-kapitalisme.

ABSTRACT

Liberal Period was a period when the colonial government held an economic principle of free trade. During this series of years, the semi-traditional economy of Cultivation System was rationalized. By doing this, they hoped brand new economic system that strongly held the value of individual freedom can provide a better economic opportunity for any community in the Netherlands Indies. Salatiga's economy reached its peak in this period, but in contrast, its rural people, that made the most part of its demographic composition, still lingered in a pre-capitalist economic system until 1930. This research aims to answer the question of why these people cannot respond all economic opportunities, and goes along the growing economic trend like the other communities. To be able to answer it, first, how Liberal policies executed in Salatiga and to what extent rural people of Salatiga encountered with those policies are examined. Then, factors that caused the minimal response given by rural people of Salatiga towards all economic opportunities came during the Liberal Period is discussed. Sources used in this research consisted of government's official archives, publications of other institutions from the same time, books, articles, and photos. According to reading and analysis of those resources, I can conclude that at that time, rural economy of Salatiga did changed, but only not to the same level as what reached by other communities such as European or Chinese. In responding all economic opportunities came on that era, rural people of Salatiga only can attach themselves as a second class economic player. The more 'developmental' policies like education that originally also aimed to increase their bargaining power, still didn't be able to remark any significant change, until stopped in around 1920-1930 by the crisis.

Keywords: Salatiga, rural economy, Liberal Period, rationalization, pre-capitalism.