

## The Study of Historical Relics in the Context of Social Change – Politics

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### ABSTRACT

*The study of historical heritage in the context of socio-political change is research that connects historical heritage with the dynamics of changes in the social and political structure of society. Historical relics, whether in the form of artifacts, documents, or historical sites, have an important role in shaping the social and political identity of a nation. This research aims to analyze how historical relics affect socio-political transformations in a given period. Through a multidisciplinary approach, this study explores the relationship between historical objects and changes that occur in government structures, public policies, and changes in social norms. This study also explores the influence of historical symbolism on political movements and the formation of nationalism. The results of the study show that historical relics not only function as memories of the past, but also as a key element in shaping and influencing the direction of social-political change*

**Keywords:** Historical heritage, Learning Resources, Nationality

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## INTRODUCTION

History is part of the process of life that is always preserved and developed. Through history, a generation will be able to appreciate the values of goodness and appreciate the importance of history. This can be seen from the many historical sources that exist in the community that are spread almost throughout Indonesia. So that each member of the community has a different historical source from the people outside their area and creates a different culture. The public's perception of heritage sites is still very less than expected, very few people know and understand that the heritage site is beneficial for the world of education and recreation, they no longer consider historical relics as a place with a scary room atmosphere. In the records of past human events, there is the concept of change and sustainability. Change can be said to be a common symptom in every human society. Sooner or later, humans or society will undergo changes. Changes in society will continue to take place along with the passage of time.

Historical relics are tangible evidence of the long journey of human civilization. Various artifacts, historical buildings, manuscripts, and oral traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation are important sources in understanding the social and political changes that occur in a society. The study of historical heritage aims not only to uncover the past, but also to examine how it affects the social and political dynamics of the present. The socio-political changes that occur in a society are often intertwined with the development of its historical heritage. Political transformations, such as colonialism, revolution, or government reform, can have an impact on the preservation or even destruction of historical heritage. Similarly, social changes, such as modernization, globalization, and shifting cultural values, also determine how society interprets and cares for its historical heritage.

## METHOD

This study uses a qualitative descriptive research method. Data analysis was carried out with historical and sociological approaches to understand the relationship between historical relics and socio-political changes. In addition, this study also examines government policies related to the preservation of historical heritage and how socio-political changes affect public perception of historical heritage. With this method, the

research is expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of historical heritage in social and political dynamics in Indonesia.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Concept of History**

The word history originally comes from the Arabic word "syajara", meaning to happen, "syajaratun" (read: syajarah) meaning a wooden tree. Trees depict continuous growth from the earth to the air by having branches, branches and leaves, flowers or flowers and fruits. Indeed, in the word history is stored the meaning of growth or occurrence (Yamin, 1958: 4).

That is how history means tree, also means descendants, origins or genealogy. People who have been in contact with the science of history for a long time, including those who study it in some depth, the meaning of the word syajarah is not the same as the word history, but the two words are related to each other. History does not only mean trees, in the sense of "family tree" it also does not only mean descendants, origins and genealogy. However, if we study history, at least we will certainly study ancestry, origins and genealogy (syajarah an-nasab). At first glance, we have followed the meaning of the word history from the point of view of etymology, which describes the nature of a wooden tree. However, this is not meant to be biological; growing, developing, bearing fruit or not and finally dying, really like a wooden tree. History does grow, evolve and move on and will go on endlessly throughout time.

### **Historical Relics In A Social Context**

The results of the study show that historical relics have a significant impact on social change. Case studies in several regions show that the use of historical relics as tourist attractions has improved the living standards of the surrounding community. In addition, history-based educational activities have increased the awareness of the younger generation to the importance of cultural preservation.

Studies at Borobudur Temple, for example, show that the existence of the temple is not only a religious center but also supports local economic growth through the tourism industry. The surrounding community plays an active role in providing tourist services, local guides, and the production of Borobudur souvenirs. However, challenges in

preserving historical relics remain, such as vandalism, destruction due to natural factors, and lack of funds for restoration. Therefore, the involvement of the government, academics, and the community is needed to ensure the sustainability of historical heritage for future generations.



Despite having many benefits, historical relics face various challenges such as destruction, theft of artifacts, and a lack of public awareness of the importance of preservation. Therefore, the involvement of the government, academics, and the community is needed in preservation efforts, including through strict regulations and cultural awareness campaigns.

### **Historical Relics In A Political Context**

Modern Indonesia is a mixed heritage of the past, or more accurately called a diverse heritage with diverse identities. In discussing the degree of influence of Dutch colonialism on Indonesian politics, we may be able to trace it by studying the nature of the Dutch presence in Indonesia through the following three major waves of time periods: (i) The VOC Era (1600-1799); (ii) Dutch Colonial Era (1800-1942); (iii) The Post-WWII National War of Independence Era (1945-1949). Each of these periods is a separate historical layer, with different characteristics and impacts from one layer to another.

However, we can certainly still see the common thread where certain aspects remain or continue and others undergo such changes.

Entering the 19th century, the Dutch East Indies underwent a fundamental change, which was marked by the transition from VOC authority to colonial rule. Daendels, Raffles and Van den Bosch are, without a doubt, the three protagonists who carved the canvas of 19th-century colonial history (Wertheim, Elizabet, & Husein, 1999). Daendels is known as a symbol of the turning point of the VOC's experience to the colonial era of the Dutch East Indies, especially by carrying out bureaucratic and legal reforms, including radical cleansing of the corrupt practices of the VOC's heritage apparatus by creating fear and merciless cruelty in the construction of major highway infrastructure in Java. The discussion of colonial heritage can be seen in the following two levels. First, with regard to the paradigm change in colonial relations from the VOC era which was more of a pattern of oppressive (monopolistic) 'trade relations' to colonial relations, which were responsible for the formation of colonial character and mindset. As such, it is telligible, but its expression can be traced through actions. Second, radical changes in the new arrangement through the typical 'colonial bureaucracy' and more or less according to the Weberian model. These two elements - the character of the colonial regime and the government bureaucracy - took the lead in the influence of Dutch colonialism in Indonesia. The first concerns the extent to which the pressure of the colonial regime's power creates a colonial mentality, the second through the spread of the colonial bureaucracy.

## **CONCLUSION**

The study of historical heritage in the context of socio-political change is research that connects historical heritage with the dynamics of changes in the social and political structure of society. History is an event from the past that is the source of history, research shows that historical relics have a significant impact on social change. Case studies in several regions show that the use of historical relics as tourist attractions has improved the living standards of the surrounding community. In addition, history-based educational activities have increased the awareness of the younger generation to the importance of cultural preservation.

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