

ABSTRAK

HANIFAH HUSNAENI, 2025. **KEHIDUPAN SOSIAL DAN EKONOMI MASYARAKAT MAJENANG PADA MASA KOLONIAL BELANDA TAHUN 1915-1935.**

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Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan kehidupan sosial dan ekonomi masyarakat Majenang pada masa kolonial Belanda tahun 1915–1935, dengan fokus pada dampak kebijakan politik etis dan ekonomi liberal terhadap masyarakat lokal. Permasalahan utama adalah bagaimana dinamika sosial dan aktivitas ekonomi Majenang berkembang di tengah kebijakan kolonial yang eksploitatif namun juga membawa modernisasi infrastruktur. Metode yang digunakan adalah sejarah dengan tahapan pemilihan topik, heuristik, kritik sumber, interpretasi, dan historiografi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Majenang mengalami perkembangan ekonomi signifikan dengan hadirnya infrastruktur modern seperti pabrik gula, gudang kopi, jalur trem, jalan raya, serta fasilitas kesehatan dan komunikasi. Pabrik gula menjadi pusat industri penting yang mendorong produktivitas dan distribusi tebu, kopi, dan beras. Perdagangan meningkat melalui pelabuhan Cilacap yang didukung transportasi darat yang efisien. Secara sosial, muncul elite pribumi baru dengan akses pendidikan dan ekonomi, walau sebagian besar masyarakat tetap marginal. Kesadaran akan pentingnya pendidikan dan layanan kesehatan mulai tumbuh. Namun, kesenjangan sosial tetap terjadi akibat dominasi kolonial dan akses terbatas terhadap sumber daya. Penelitian ini menegaskan paradoks pembangunan kolonial: membawa kemajuan namun memperkuat ketimpangan, serta memperkaya historiografi lokal dan pemahaman kolonialisme di daerah agraris seperti Majenang.

Kata Kunci: Majenang, kolonial Belanda, sosial-ekonomi, politik etis, infrastruktur kolonial, historiografi lokal.

ABSTRACT

HANIFAH HUSNAENI, 2025. **THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE MAJENANG PEOPLE DURING THE DUTCH COLONIAL PERIOD IN 1915-1935.**

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This study aims to describe the social and economic life of the Majenang community during the Dutch colonial period of 1915–1935, with a focus on the impact of ethical political policies and liberal economics on the local community. The main problem is how the social dynamics and economic activities of Majenang developed amidst exploitative colonial policies that also brought about modern infrastructure. The method used is history with the stages of topic selection, heuristics, source criticism, interpretation, and historiography. The results show that Majenang experienced significant economic development with the presence of modern infrastructure such as sugar mills, coffee warehouses, tram lines, highways, and health and communication facilities. The sugar mills became important industrial centers that boosted the productivity and distribution of sugar cane, coffee, and rice. Trade increased through the port of Cilacap, supported by efficient land transportation. Socially, a new indigenous elite emerged with access to education and economic opportunities, although the majority of the community remained marginalized. Awareness of the importance of education and health services began to grow. However, social inequality persisted due to colonial domination and limited access to resources. This research emphasizes the paradox of colonial development: bringing progress but reinforcing inequality, and enriches local historiography and understanding of colonialism in agrarian areas such as Majenang.

Keywords: Majenang, Dutch colonial, socio-economic, ethical politics, colonial infrastructure, local historiography.