

Research Summary

Japanese Economic Activities in South Sulawesi (1942-1945)

This is an historical study about Japanese Military economic policy in the colonized areas during Pacific-War. Such policy affected the regional typology, social and political characteristics and ways of its implementation. Data were taken from reports, diaries and oral history written during the Japanese occupation. The research findings indicated that by the Liaison Conference on 20th of November 1941, there was a significant change in the policy in the colonized areas namely the shifting. authority from the civilian to the military government in controlling food sustainability and the use of industrial raw materials. In such the cases, the colonized areas were able to implement the concept of “petik-olah-jual”(pick-process-sell) to promote the Far-Eastern Asian commonwealth..Basically, the commonwealth was not viewed in one political aspect, especially in terms of human disasters, but the establishment of self reliance in the new economic system in Asia (*Keizai Shin Taisei*). That was why the Japanese Navy made Sulawesi, Kalimantan, Maluccas, Nusa Tenggara and Irian Jaya as places for industrial raw materials and textile as well as food storages for the sake of East Asia War. The Japanese military economic policy was enforced by monetary act on 12th of December 1941 which stipulated the official exchange tool was Japanese currency. Principally, the policy in Indonesia was divided into two: firstly, which was controlled by Japanese army based in Java island and secondly controlled by Japanese navy based in Makassar by which such deviation resulted an image of Japanese colonization in Indonesia. The navy economic policy seemed to be more moderate, openly and even got sympathy from local kingships, whereas the army tended to be authoritative. The navy policy in South Sulawesi was stated in the Diversified Production Capacity Program (*Seisanryoku Kakujū Keikaku*) including cotton plantation, castor villages, public weaving industries, controlling industrial raw materials and food security. To promote this policy, some experts were sent to South Sulawesi to be supervisors. In March 1943 cotton union established in Bantaeng, Bulukumba and Sinjai. To support this policy, some thirty out of seventy-three companies were controlled by Navy with a total of 31,1% of budget allocated. This policy involved some companies :i.e. Mitsubishi, Nihon, Ishihara Sangyo, Furukawa, Nissan Shokai, and Celebes Kogyo. These companies made contract with indigenous farmers in South Sulawesi. When the economic decrease happened as the impact of Japanese defeated by Allied Forces in the end of 1944, the Diversified Production Capacity Program (*Seisanryoku Kakujū Keikaku*) in 1942 failed. For example 2.270 acres program for cotton in South Sulawesi could not be maintained although the Japanese military had tried to intensify by recruiting the farmers to become *romuscha*. Meanwhile, weaving machines were out of order. The seeds shortage and cotton disease became the main problems. In addition, Japanese Military in South Sulawesi was pushed aside because of the war and could not continue the economic program.and lasted in the Japanese defeat. Nevertheless, some places in South Sulawesi still become silk producers so far for instance: Mandar and Sengkang

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