



AMERICAN
SCIENTIFIC
PUBLISHERS

Copyright © 2017 American Scientific Publishers
All rights reserved
Printed in the United States of America

Advanced Science Letters
Vol. 23, 9984–9987, 2017

Internalization of Nationalism Values on Senior High School Students in the Outer Island: A Case Study in Bunguran Island, Natuna Regency

Endang Susilowati*, Singgih Tri Sulistiyono, and Dhanang Respati Puguh

Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Semarang, Central Java 50275, Indonesia

Nationalism is one of the pillars supporting the existence of a nation state. The waning of nationalism among the younger generation can damage the pillar. This paper discusses efforts to internalize nationalism values among high school students in the outer islands, in the case of Bunguran Island or Natuna Island (the old name), Natuna regency. Methods used is a combination of historical and social methods. Historical method used to reveal historical background of problems, while social methods used to understand perception of younger generation's in nationalism. Bunguran is one of the islands in Natuna regency, geographically it borders with neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. The interaction between local population and migrants from different regions can not be avoided. Meanwhile its geographical location is very far from the Indonesian government that has consequence on the lack of the intervention on the Island's development. These conditions cause waning on nationalism values, especially in the younger generation. Efforts to internalize of nationalism values conducted by high school students, it is the most effective way to maintain a sense of love for the nation and motherland.

Keywords: Nationalism Values, Outer Island, Young Generation, Internalization, Natuna.

1. INTRODUCTION

Nationalism is one of the basic elements of Indonesia as a nation, as well as a pillar of the establishment of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI). Ernest Renan stressed the importance of a shared desire to become a nation and nationalism as the glue for nationalities.¹ Meanwhile Hans Kohn defines nationalism as an ideology that puts loyalty and love of the people for the state and nation in the central position.² That is, an individual who would prefer the nationalist interests of the nation above personal or group interests.

Problems faced by the island nation consisting of a mix of ethnicities, religions, and cultures, such as Indonesia is not easy to maintain the territorial integrity, national integration and social harmony in society. It will become more difficult if the values of nationalism is less impregnated by citizens of this nation. Simply put, nationalism can be defined as love of the homeland. Disclosure of a sense of love for this country can be realized with various attitudes, such as love domestic products, to feel proud of the work done by our own people, to love and nurture national culture, and others. In the current global era, nationalism seems increasingly to be a "scarce." Most young people even think that nationalism is a phenomenon that no longer relevant

to contemporary issues.³ The development of information and communication technology which takes place very fast, which is even capable of removing the space boundaries and time in various aspects of life. It is one causes of the waning of nationalism among the younger generation. In addition, the association with the citizens of other nations and cultural influences that follow can also be the cause.

Indonesia is an archipelago with a territory stretching from Weh Island to Papua, faces enormous challenges in maintaining nationalism among the young generation. With a very wide geographical area, it is not easy for the Indonesian government to evenly divide attention. The development gaps in areas such as infrastructure development, economic, socio-cultural in regions are far from the center of government. Field of work for the productive population is also very limited, thus most of them are forced to seek employment outside the region or abroad. Residents in the outer islands feel lacking of careless of the government towards their needs. For example, government policy is more focused on the development and construction only, they forget about the development of the sea and beach. It led to the emergence of a feeling of marginalization among the population that could be the seeds of nationalism weakening.⁴

Bunguran island which was formerly called Natuna Island in Natuna District is one of the outer islands bordering the waters

*Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

with some neighboring countries, such as Malaysia, Vietnam, and Thailand. The island's layout is very strategic because it is adjacent to the South China Sea and located at the intersection of international cruise lines. Therefore, many foreign ships passing through the waters of Natuna. Abundant fishery resources and oil and gas content of hydro carbon contained in the Natuna waters in a large amounts has led Natuna to be very appealing to the international community. This situation on the one hand is very profitable, but on the other hand can also be a threat to the life of the nation. Moreover, when the government's attention is only focused on a few large islands only.

This paper aims to express the views and attitudes of young people on the island of Natuna District Bunguran towards his homeland and describes efforts to instill nationalism to them. This effort is necessary because Natuna is one of the foremost islands, as well as Indonesia's northernmost gate directly opposite to the South China Sea.

2. METHOD

To know the background of the issues discussed in this paper, the symptoms of the waning of nationalism among the younger generation in Natuna, then used historical method which includes four stages: heuristic, criticism, interpretation, and historiography. Meanwhile to know how the views and attitudes of young people of Natuna towards the country then used the method of social research by distributing questionnaires to students from several high schools in Bunguran Island. It also conducted interviews with teachers and stakeholders in the field of education, such as officials at the Department of Education and Culture as well as public figures who have competence in matters that became the focus of this paper. The interview aims to determine the views of community leaders towards younger generation on the island of Bunguran, particularly with regard to their nationalistic attitude.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of a study by Marsetio⁵ found that the border region is very strategic but vulnerable to issues that can weaken national defense, such as the issue of underdevelopment, weakness of the border, and management of natural resources that are not well coordinated. In another study by Marsetio⁵ stated that the conventional way of central government in the border regions bore discourse of "left behind tribe or "isolated tribes." The mention of "outer islands" indicates that the region as if it is not part of Indonesia. The implications of the emergence of discourse as it is the difference in the treatment of regions and communities in the border region. It also happened on the island of Bunguran Natuna District. Capital District of Natuna, namely Ranai, located on this island. However, the physical development of the city is still far from befits a district capital. Very long distances the central government in Jakarta (approximately 1,135,629 km, compared with the distance from Ranai to Singapore which is only about 550 km and from Ranai to Kuching that is only about 300 km) causes Natuna to obtain less proper attention from the central government. The shape of the government's lack of concern include the lack of means of transport among the areas within the district and provincial and transport that connects Ranai with other

regions in Indonesia. It has implications not only on the socio-economic field (subsistence population), but also in social and cultural sectors, particularly in education.

3.1. Socio-Economic Conditions

In 2010 the population of Natuna District were 69.003 consisted of Malays (85%), Java (6.5%), Chinese (2.5%), and Minangkabau (0.7%), and Batak (0.5%). The rest were ethnic Bugis, Banjar, and other tribes.⁶ Their livelihoods were mainly fishery, agriculture, gardening, and trade. Potential fisheries in the waters of Natuna is one of the economic support of the population. Some types of fish such as Napoleon and groupers are cultured by the residents has high economic value because they are becoming the export commodity to international markets (Hogkong, Japan, Korea) In the field of agriculture, people developed food crops (maize, cassava, beans), coconut, cloves, and rubber.⁷ Agricultural products, especially to meet the needs of its own people, while plantations in addition to meeting local needs they were also for other areas. The field of trade is mainly done by the Malays and Chinese. Although Natuna has enormous natural wealth in the form of gas reserves total 1.270 billion cubic stored at a depth of 145 meters in the northeast of the island Natuna,⁸ but the lives of the Natuna in general is still far from prosperous.

Residents needs for food are not all fulfilled alone and should be brought in from elsewhere. Here it is frequently recurring problems. This is related to the lack of means of transport. Transport to and from Natuna serviced by ships and aircraft. There are 3 ships that sailed Natuna, namely KM Bukit Raya from Tanjungpinang that stopped at Natuna two weeks, as well as the ship pilot Trigat 5 and Gunung Bintan calling at Natuna three times per month.⁹ In addition to the ship, transportation to and from Natuna is also served by three airlines that operate air passenger one or two times a week. With the transportation condition as it is not easy for this area to meet all the basic needs of the population only relying on food production imported from Indonesia only. To meet their daily food needs, Natuna market are filled with goods from Malaysia. The shops in the city of Ranai up to stalls at the corners of the island are used to sell food, drinks and other goods imported from neighboring countries, especially Malaysia. The factor of geographical proximity and ease of sea transportation (small boats belonging to ordinary traders sailed to Kuching to sell a variety of fishery and plantation from Natuna and brought back various items of daily needs) caused the population has no choice but to consume food and using household equipment imported from neighboring countries.

Meanwhile, employment opportunities in Natuna is still low. Children's high school graduates are not much to go on to higher education degree. For economic reasons they choose to work in the informal sector quite narrow. As a result working in the neighboring country becomes an attractive choice. Ease of working abroad with salaries that is considered as capable of being a strong appeal. So many people of productive age who moved to neighboring countries, and in fact did not want to go back to their home country.

From the standpoint of nationalism, of course it can be said that they are not nationalists, because the population tend to use more products of other countries than their own country and prefer to work in other countries than in their own country. However, from an economic standpoint and rationality, it can

be understood. The price of goods of daily needs are imported from Malaysia, Thailand, or Vietnam are cheaper than the goods imported from the territory of Indonesia itself, because transportation costs are cheaper (closer distance). The availability of goods are also ensured. However, it must be recognized that such conditions can create dependency on other countries and could also be a threat to the life of the nation, especially among the younger generation. They will assume that the state is not able to meet the needs of the population. Gradually the trust in government may decline and love of the homeland can be weakened. One of the community leaders in the town of Ranai stated that although they daily consume foods, beverages, and using goods from neighboring countries, but they remain part of the Indonesian people who really love their homeland.¹⁰

3.2. Socio-Cultural Conditions

Largest ethnic group and the original inhabitants of the island of Bunguran are Malays ethnic. Therefore the Malay culture are coloring the lives of the Natuna. Local wisdom developed in the life of the population, among others are rooted in the culture of the Malay valuable. Customary Institution of Melayu became one of the institutions that serves as a guard and preservation of indigenous Malay begun to erode the times. Unfortunately there are many more young people in Natuna is willing to learn and live the values contained in Malay culture, that in the future is perhaps the Malay culture is in danger of losing his supporters.

In addition to the Malay culture in Natuna there are also many types of other cultures, such as Javanese and Chinese culture that can be accepted by the community and have the support of each tribe. It shows the characteristics of coastal communities or communities of the island are more open and receptive to the influence that comes from outside. Inter-religious harmony is also seen on the island. The embodiment of inter-religious harmony was seen on places of worship founded side by side. In Ranai there is a mosque built in a place of worship side by side with Chinese citizens, in other parts of the island Bunguran there is also built a church adjoining the place of worship of other religions.

Social and cultural life of society Natuna which is harmony and with mutual respect are certainly one of the capital for national unity. Although the Natuna residents are consisting of various ethnic groups and followers of various religions, but never incur a conflict between ethnic or inter-religious.⁴ Capital base in the form of harmony between citizens is needed in the current global era.

3.3. Internalization of Nationalism Value in High School Students in Bunguran Island

Young people are the greatest hope for the survival of a nation and the state, because they are the candidates of leaders in the future. In 2010 the population of secondary school age (junior and senior) in Natuna were as many as 9194 people.¹¹ They are scattered in various junior high schools and high schools in the District of Natuna. This paper takes the case of the internalization of the values of nationalism in three High School located in the city of Ranai and Sedanau. The survey results revealed that the majority of high school students on the island of Bunguran know the meaning of nationalism (95%), the remaining states have heard the term but do not know exactly what that meant. Students who claim to know the meaning of the lessons in the school of nationalism were amounted to 86%, the rest knew

this from television, newspapers, scientific forums, and from the family. Meanwhile 85% of students believe that nationalism is an attitude and behavior that is born of the awareness as citizens. Associated with the existence of the Unitary Republic of Indonesia (NKRI), 65% of students stated that nationalism is an attitude and behavior that comes from love for the Homeland. Regarding the nationalist attitude, as much as 62% of students stated that the attitude was born from the understanding of the meaning of nationalism, 23% stated that it was born from their government's call to be loyal and serve the nation and the state, and 15% stated that it was born because of the advice and direction of government.

Based on the results of these studies then designed an attempt to internalize the values of nationalism to the middle school students which will be done by their own circles. For that in each school used as a model established several teams in charge of delivering a variety of things about nationalism and awaken constantly that Natuna is an indispensable part of NKRI, and the younger generation of Natuna as important as the younger generation in Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and other islands in Indonesia. They have an equal opportunity to become a candidate for leader of Indonesia in the future.

Natuna saves a large number of underwater natural resources Natuna is also very diverse in culture and rich for values and norms that can be followed. Natuna young generation should be aware of it and should try to keep it as good as possible. They must prepare themselves better than their friends in Java, for example. Through an understanding of nationalism sustainably delivered by school teachers and fellow students who have been chosen, are expected to love and be proud of the country to continue to grow and develop to be full of spirit for moving forward. If at any young generation in Natuna has embedded a sense of love and pride in the state and homeland, then any difficult circumstances would be inaccessible and the temptation of convenience and luxury offered by other nations in the country will be easily denied.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Internalizing values of nationalism is not a job that can be seen in a short time. It needs persistence and constant effort, tireless, and thus will be seen a change in outlook, attitude, and behavior of the subjects. That success is highly dependent on the seriousness and hard work of both of the students in general and especially teachers and a team that has been formed.

Efforts to internalize the values of nationalism in the younger generation on the island of Bunguran can also be applied in the border areas of Indonesia. Socio-economic inequality, social, cultural, education and welfare of the citizens of the nation can weaken young generation nationalism. They also face a big challenge because living close to other nations to the level of prosperity which are much better. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the spirit of national integration of the nation and the state.

Acknowledgments: Thanks to Dr. Yety Rochwulaningsih, M.Si. who has helped to process statistical data.

References and Notes

1. C. J. H. Hayes, *The Historical Evolution of Modern Nationalism*, Mac Millan (1955).
2. H. Kohn, *The Idea of Nationalism*, Mc. Millan Company, New York (1961).

3. S. Kartodirdjo, Multi-dimensi Pembangunan Bangsa: Etos Nasionalisme dan Negara Kesatuan, Penerbit Kanisius, Yogyakarta (2003).
4. Marsetio, Konstruksi Marginalitas Daerah Perbatasan (Studi kasus Kepulauan Natuna), Ph.D. Dissertation, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta (2012).
5. Marsetio, Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Perbatasan guna Meningkatkan Ketahanan Nasional dalam Rangka Tetap Tegaknya NKRI, Paper tidak diterbitkan, disampaikan dalam HUT LEMHANAS RI, June (2010).
6. Wikipedia, Kabupaten Natuna (2016), Retrieved from https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabupaten_Natuna.
7. E. Susilowati, S. T. Sulistiyono, and D. R. Puguh, Model Penanaman Nilai-nilai Nasionalisme pada Masyarakat Pulau Terluar (Studi Kasus Kabupaten Natuna), Laporan Penelitian pada Lembaga Penelitian dan Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat, Universitas Diponegoro (2015).
8. P. A. Rohi, Natuna Kapal Induk Amerika, Penerbit Adibatama Komunika, Jakarta (2010).
9. A. J. Natuna, Surga Tersembunyi di Ujung Utara, Batam Link Publisher, Batam (2011).
10. Wawancara dengan Rodhial Huda, August (2015).
11. Dinas Pendidikan Kabupaten Natuna, Profil Pendidikan Natuna, Ranai (2010).

Received: 6 November 2016. Accepted: 19 December 2016.

IP: 182.255.2.14 On: Tue, 16 Apr 2019 01:48:37
Copyright: American Scientific Publishers
Delivered by Ingenta