

Jambi and Physical Revolution

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Abstract

This article discusses the role of Jambi during the Indonesian Physical Revolution, particularly in the context of Central Sumatra, which was then one of the sub-provinces under the Province of Sumatra. With its rich geographical background, Jambi's topographical variations influenced the social and economic livelihood of its people. During the revolution, strategic elites from the military, nobility, and bureaucrats played crucial roles in mobilizing the struggle against colonial forces. The government structure also underwent significant changes, from the Dutch colonial era to the post-independence period, including the establishment of autonomous regions under Central Sumatra Province. The article further elaborates on how the army's reorganization and rationalization (Rera) impacted the military's role in Jambi. Although Jambi's role in the Physical Revolution was not as iconic as other regions, it still contributed to defending independence and preserving the unity of the Republic of Indonesia. This article employs literature study and content analysis methods to explore various relevant historical sources.

Jambi dan Revolusi Fisik

Abstrak

Artikel ini membahas peran wilayah Jambi dalam Revolusi Fisik Indonesia, khususnya dalam konteks Sumatera Tengah, yang pada waktu itu merupakan salah satu sub-provinsi di bawah Provinsi Sumatera. Dengan latar belakang geografis yang kaya, wilayah Jambi memiliki variasi topografi yang memengaruhi kehidupan sosial dan ekonomi masyarakatnya. Selama masa revolusi, elit strategis dari kalangan militer, bangsawan, dan birokrat memainkan peran penting dalam menggerakkan perjuangan melawan penjajah. Pemerintah juga mengalami perubahan struktural, mulai dari masa kolonial Belanda hingga masa kemerdekaan, termasuk pembentukan daerah otonom di bawah Provinsi Sumatera Tengah. Artikel ini juga menggambarkan bagaimana reorganisasi dan rasionalisasi tentara (Rera) berdampak pada peran militer di Jambi. Meski peran Jambi dalam Revolusi Fisik tidak seikonik daerah lain, Jambi tetap berkontribusi dalam mempertahankan kemerdekaan dan menjaga kesatuan Republik Indonesia. Artikel ini menggunakan metode studi literatur dan analisis konten untuk mengeksplorasi berbagai sumber sejarah yang relevan.

Keywords

Physical Revolution
Jambi
Central Sumatra
Military
Reorganization

Kata Kunci

Revolusi Fisik
Jambi
Sumatera Tengah
Reorganisasi Militer

Introduction

Jambi has a regional topography that is oriented upstream in the west and downstream in the east. The upstream part is dominated by highlands, where a Bukit Barisan mountainous area borders directly with West Sumatra and Bengkulu. In this section, there is also the Kerinci Seblat National Park area. Meanwhile, the downstream is dominated by lowland areas in the form of swamps and soil content suitable for perennials.

The land's condition, the region's location, and the Jambi region's climate also determine the types of people's main livelihoods. In areas with fertile soil and sufficient rainfall, such as Sarolangun and Bangko, the people's main livelihoods are farming and gardening. Similarly, people generally farm and plant gardens in other areas and collect forest products such as rattan and resin. Many people's rubber plantations are found in the Batanghari, Bungo-Tebo, and Sarolangun-Bangko areas. In the coastal areas of Tanjung Jabung, people mainly grow coconuts and collect marine products such as fish and shellfish (Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, 1982, p. 3).

Most of Jambi's land is used for agricultural cultivation, both wetland and non-wetland agriculture. Based on the character of the ecological complex, the development of cultivation areas, especially for agriculture, is divided into three areas, namely the upstream, middle, and downstream ecological groups. Each has a special character: the upstream ecological complex is an area where there are protected areas, the middle ecology is a cultivation area with a very varied range of activities, and the downstream ecological complex is a cultivation area with the application of water management technology for aquaculture and capture fisheries (Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, 2007, p. 23).

The topography of the Jambi region, with its condition of land area, soil composition, extensive forest reserves, climate, and rainfall that is almost evenly distributed throughout the year, as well as the Batanghari River, which stretches from west to east with dozens of tributaries that reach the peripheral areas, are strategic and favorable geographical factors for trade traffic (Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, 2007).

What about Jambi during the Physical Revolution, which at that time was one of the regions in the Central Sumatra Sub-Province? Reflecting on a veteran's account of activities during the revolution and borrowing Suzzane Keller's term strategic elite (1984), which floats the involvement of strategic elite groups from the military elite in Jambi, traditional elites who became community leaders (old nobles and religious people) and intellectual elites who occupied bureaucratic posts at that time, The strategic elite carried out struggle activities during the revolutionary period and made sudden changes to adjust to the revolutionary situation. These adjustments included setting up public kitchens with the people and forming *laskar* to help the Republican military battle (TRI).

In times of rapid social change, the influence of the elite on the background of such change is particularly evident. In times of relative stability, the elite are at one with their times' objects, customs, and tastes. The enduring functional aspects of their roles become especially apparent during social transition or crisis (Keller, 1986, p. 4). During the revolutionary period, it appears that the civilian elites had a militaristic mindset; everything was done to meet the challenges of wartime (the physical revolution), but each elite group played different roles. In the following discussion, it is interesting to discuss a region that participated in a situation that required escalation to a physical revolution.

Methods

The methods used in writing this article are the literature study method and content analysis. In general, research using any scheme uses literature studies. In some cases, literature study and field research are often distinguished in meaning; literature study and field research still require literature searches. The difference between the two is based on the substance, i.e., the purpose, function, and position of the desk study for the research being conducted. Field research prepares a research outline or proposal to obtain information about similar research through literature searches; this is mainly intended as a first step in preparing, deepening theoretical studies, or sharpening methodology. Library research utilizes literature searches in addition to the functions mentioned in field research, and existing library sources are utilized to obtain research data (Zed, 2004). In summary, desk research and field research are interrelated in scientific research.

Jambi in the Geosocial of Dutch Colonial, Japanese Occupation, and Republic of Indonesia

When viewed from the meaning of the word, the word *kampung* means "gathering," thus, the word *kampung* means gathering. *Berkampung* is the same as gathering. In Jambi province, we find the name *Kampung* as a place of residence in Jambi. In Sarolangun, Bangko, Bungo, and Tebo, people prefer to use the name *Dusun* rather than *Kampung*. In Tanjung Jabung Regency, *parit* is also used instead of *kampung*. A head heads a *Dusun* called *Penghulu* with the title *Datuk Rio*, chosen from among the people of the *Dusun* who are considered capable. A *parit* is headed by a *parit* head. In contrast, a *kampung* is headed by a *kampung* head who is chosen from among the local population and by the local population (Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, 2007, pp. 23-24).

In carrying out his duties, the *kepala kampung*, *kepala parit*, or *penghulu* is assisted by the *Mangku*, who performs the functions of deputy *kepala kampung* and secretary *kepala kampung*. *Kampung* (the village), also called *Dusun* or *Parit*, is part of *Marga* (a clan). *Marga* (a clan) is a unit of customary law society based on residence, combining several dusks, and is an area of customary law fellowship. The clan (*Marga*) is headed by a *Pasirah* elected from the *Dusun* population within the clan. The *Pasirah* Head of the Clan runs the clan government as the customary head of the clan. In Upper Jambi (Merangin and Bungo), there is *Batin*, headed by a customary chief. *Batin* is at the same level as the clan (*Marga*), and in carrying out its work duties, it is assisted by *Datuk Rio* as the Head of the *Dusun* (Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, 2007, pp. 23-24).

The following is the government structure created by the Dutch through village ordinances in the period 1900-1928 by adjusting the pattern of local customs. The pattern was formed after the abolishment of the Jambi Sultanate after Jambi's conquest.

By the *Inlandsche Gemente Ordonantie Buiten Gesweten*, a clan can be equated with a *Desa* in Java, *Nagari* in Minangkabau, *Kuria* in Tapanuli, and *Gelarong* in South Sulawesi, which is a legal unit in society based on territorial unity (Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, 2007, p. 24). During the Japanese colonial period of 1942-1945, the structure was maintained with only a name change in Japanese terms for positions outside the traditional government. The change changed *gewest/keresidenan* to *ayu* led by *ayucokan* (resident), *afdeeling* changed to *bunyu* held by *Bunuyuco* (controller), *onderafdeeling* changed to *gun* held by *Gunco* (bensay), and *Onderdistrik* changed to *Bon* held by *Tuku Giseu* (*Adister Desang*) (*Helmiyeti*

& Prihatna, 2013, p. 12). After the Republic of Indonesia was formed, Jambi was included in the province of Sumatra in 1945, then entered the province of Central Sumatra in 1948 and became an independent province in 1957.

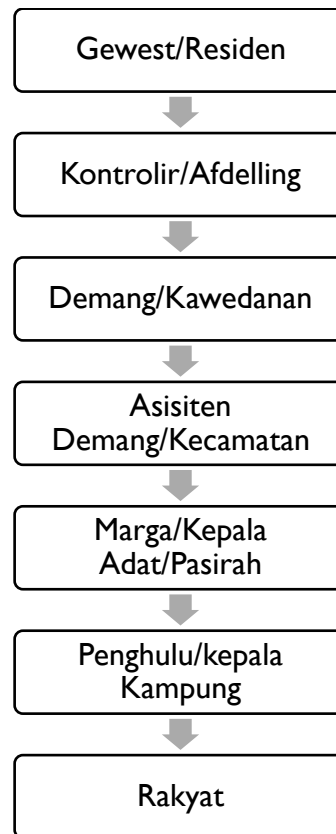


Figure 1 the government structure created by the Dutch

Jambi in the Geopolitics of the Physical Revolution Sumatera

After the proclamation of independence on August 17, 1945, by Soekarno-Hatta, Two days later, on August 19, 1945, the Indonesian Independence Preparation Committee (PPKI) held a session to divide the administrative regions of the newly established Republic of Indonesia. The administrative areas were the provinces of Sumatra, West Java, Central Java, East Java, Lesser Sunda, Maluku, Sulawesi, and Kalimantan. For Sumatra Province, Mr. Teuku Mohammad Hassan was appointed governor.

Three days later, PPKI held another session. The Indonesian Independence Preparatory Committee (PPKI), in its session on August 22, 1945, decided to form a) the National Committee, b) the Indonesian National Party, and c) the People's Security Agency. Following the formation of the National Committee, the Indonesian National Party, and the People's Security Agency at the central level, the administrative regions of the Republic of Indonesia, namely the Provinces of Sumatra, West Java, Central Java, East Java, Sunda Kecil, Maluku, Sulawesi, and Kalimantan, also formed the ammar decision at the regional level and began to carry out activities in their respective regions.

For Sumatra Province the KNI began to hold meetings on April 17–19, 1946, to facilitate the administration of the vast Sumatra Province. Amid the dynamics of a strengthening revolution, the KNI decided to divide Sumatra Province into sub-provinces. Based on the decision of the KNI Session on April 18, 1946, in Bukittinggi and Governor Decree No. 143

dated July 2, 1946, Sumatra was divided into three sub-provinces headed by *Gubernur Muda*. *Gubernur muda* was responsible for the governor (Purnomo, 2010, p. 49).

The three sub-provinces are North Sumatra, located in Kota Raja; Banda Aceh, which covers the Residency of Aceh; East Sumatra; and Tapanuli, with the Young Governor, Mr. M. Amin. Central Sumatra is domiciled in Bukittinggi, covering West Sumatra, Riau, and Jambi residencies with the Junior Governor, Dr. M. Jamil. South Sumatra is domiciled in Palembang, covering the prefectures of Palembang, Bangka and Belitung, Bengkulu, and Lampung with Young Governor A. K. Gani. Based on Law No. 10, dated April 15, 1948, Sumatra was established into three provinces with the division according to the decision of the KNI session of the Sumatra region in Bukittinggi (Purnomo, 2010, p. 49).

The results of the session held by the Sumatra Representative Council on April 17–19, 1946, and the issuance of the decree of the Governor of Sumatra placed Jambi as one of the sub-presidencies in the Central Sumatra Sub-Province, which was affiliated with Sumatra Province. This affiliation was proven by the Young Governor of Central Sumatra, Dr. M. Jamil, who visited Jambi after his visit from Riau in early March 1947. In Kuala Tungkal, the governor was welcomed by Jambi Resident Rd: Inoue Kertapati, Chief of Jambi Police Commissioner Zainal Abidin, and several other government officials. The Governor of Central Sumatra visited Jambi in order to provide direction and instructions to the government apparatus in this area (DHD 45 Prov Jambi, 1990, p. 49).

Sumatera Tengah

Moving on to 1948, with the issuance of Law No. 10 dated April 15, 1948, which established Sumatra into three provinces, The division of these three provinces was by the division of sub-provinces at the KNI meeting in Bukittinggi. The increasing status of Central Sumatra as a province also changed the political complexity in the Jambi region. The change is the granting of decentralization status. Region Level II falls under the Province of Central Sumatra, and with that, the political complexity of the Jambi Prefecture ends (Undang-Undang No 10 tahun 1958).

Decentralization was intended to divide Central Sumatra Province into autonomous regencies with the right to regulate and manage their households. The establishment of autonomous regencies meant the end of the Residency status of West Sumatra, Riau, and Jambi (Anonymous, 1949). Based on the regulation of the Central Government Commissioner in Bukittinggi No. 81/Kom/U dated November 30, 1948, Jambi was designated as two autonomous regions, namely Batanghari (downstream) and Merangin (upstream), each of which consisted of four districts (Anonymous, 1948) (Purnomo, 2010, p. 48).

Jambi And Army Reorganization and Rationalization (Rera)

During the revolutionary period, the policies taken by the government over Jambi in the political scope of Central Sumatra were only legally recorded; in practice, the relationship between the Province of Central Sumatra and the autonomous decentralization of Jambi was cut off, given the precariousness of the situation at that time, between the establishment of the Young Republic of Indonesia and physical contact in the Dutch Military Aggression.

With the ineffectiveness of this relationship and the regional and cultural proximity of South Sumatra to Jambi, Jambi has more contact with South Sumatra, especially in a military command center in South Sumatra. With the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 14 of 1948, which legitimized the reorganization and rationalization of the army, This legitimacy brought

Jambi into one of the territorial divisions of Sumatra. The division was planned in two stages: during and after April 1948 (Pusat Sejarah dan Tradisi TNI, 2000)

In the first stage, Rera Jambi was used as sub-territory IV of the Jambi Residency, and in the second stage, Jambi was included in sub-territory I of South Sumatra along with Palembang, Lampung, and Bengkulu. However, this plan could not be realized due to the raging military situation. In the next development to overcome this, a sub-command was formed in South Sumatra to command still the sub-territory I of South Sumatra, where Jambi became one of its brigades. The brigade was the Garuda Putih Brigade, led by Colonel Abunjani of the 43rd regiment, who was in charge of the South Sumatra Sub Kommando (Pusat Sejarah dan Tradisi TNI, 2000).

Conclusion

Revolution echoes in some regions and places, which vary in quality and quantity. In some areas, the revolution became a stimulus for overturning the symbols of feudalism and its practices. When talking about Jambi during the Physical Revolution, the echo is certainly not as great as the iconic events of the revolution. However, its role cannot be ruled out, as it was one of the regions that participated in the revolution. Although the echoes of the physical revolution in Jambi were not as strong as the echoes of the revolution in other regions, Jambi is still Jambi, which participated in the echoes of the revolution, participated in filling independence, participated in defending independence, and participated in maintaining the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

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