

# The Role of History as a Science in Sustainable Development

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## ABSTRACT

History is simply understood as events in the past. With this understanding, there is an assumption that history cannot contribute to the broad development process. This article aims to provide a conceptual description of the role of history as a science in the context of development in general and sustainable development in particular which is adapted to the objectives of sustainable development itself. This article is a historical conceptual article written with a qualitative descriptive approach supported by the use of data collection methods in the form of library research. From the results of the discussion, it is known that the concept of sustainable development can be traced from various works of social history so that a more detailed concept can be formulated today. History as a science also has an important relationship and role in the development process and sustainable development itself which can be seen from the existence of historical functions that can lead to historical consciousness.

*Keywords: Role, History, Development, Sustainable Development*

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## INTRODUCTION

The 21st century is a time when the flow of information and the development of science and technology has occurred so rapidly that they gave rise to the phenomenon of information disruption. Such conditions will become increasingly settled and felt in almost all parts of the world, considering that information disclosure and the phenomenon of information disruption are unavoidable phenomena. This certainly has a broad impact on human life which can be seen when humans have experienced a wave of civilization, namely agriculture and industry, and are now dealing with third-world civilization, namely post-industrial civilization or post-industrial civilization [1].

The rapid development of science and technology then triggers the phenomenon of modernization in various fields on an ongoing basis. This development has also forced people, both individuals and groups – even social institutions at various levels to review/review the various policies that have been taken. This is so that the policies that emerge after that can adapt and develop quickly so that they become more accurate, effective, efficient, and on target. However, on the other hand, the making of these various policies, along with the times, has also become more complicated, more complex, and overlapping due to the various problems and social conditions of the community, so the solutions cannot satisfy the various existing human interests [2].

Despite leaving various problems, the development of science and technology remains the dominant factor to achieve the concept of sustainable development. Various modern technologies and concepts – such as green technology, and the blue economy, are now important determinants of human development in the future which need to be managed properly to become a competitive advantage in the future. These fast-paced situations and conditions have made various policies and developments of human culture impermanent and only temporary in nature, while on the other hand, they are also dealing with the various conditions of human culture. So, from here the historical dimension (past) can be seen from the present which is also running fast. What has happened then becomes important to rethink. The rapid development of situations and conditions also demands a contemplation for scientists/academics about the role they will play, as well as the attitude they must take when dealing with the phenomenon of such rapid change. No exception among historians

(professionals)/historical scientists where they need to revisit their role so far by looking for various alternative paths, including the question of how to alternatively write history (historiography).

If it is associated with the development of a nation broadly, history does not only act as a faucet of knowledge or an information provider a sich. History has a role to provide awareness (enlightenment) for the community to raise awareness in society (nation and state). Therefore, it is natural that history, especially in Indonesia, has important standards based not only on knowledge, but also on the formation of wisdom in the context of shaping people's attitudes, character, and personality.

For this reason, history (science) then becomes important as a way to be able to include the role and historical value in real behavior patterns amid society. By looking at the patterns of behavior that appear, it will be possible to know the psychological condition based on the level of appreciation of the meaning and nature of history in the present and the future. Thus, history can play an important role in shaping the character of a society. This is so because it is closely related to the concept of development itself, where broadly, development – as the basis for sustainable development, is the development of the attitude, mental, and spiritual of a nation. This also means, to build a nation, it is necessary to review the various attitudes and actions of a nation in the past. Such an attitude is the result of historical contemplation, where the life of a nation in the present is a continuation of life in the past, and life in the future is the result of life in the present. This is important again to be strengthened as capital in sustainable development, especially in Indonesia, considering that history for the Indonesian people does not seem to have become an important concern in people's lives.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This article is a conceptual study. It should be understood that historical research is literature research. Historical research aims to examine various events in the past through various sources, especially written sources. Therefore, this article is also supported by a qualitative descriptive approach with data searches carried out by literature studies. The writing is done through the process of extracting data from various reference sources that discuss various articles/writings related to various literature regarding the role of history as a science in sustainable development. These various sources are published in public media so that they can be accessed through various places (libraries) and internet media openly [2]. This paper can be an elaboration of various related articles and writings. Similarly, this article is more of a synthesis of existing writings, to be seen later about what can be done in the current context.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. The Concept of Sustainable Development in Historical Trajectory

The history of the concept of Sustainable Development was proposed for the first time in the first UN conference forum in the environmental field, which was held in Stockholm in mid-1972. dissolved, giving rise to social inequality and injustice. Food and environmental issues globally, as well as the awareness that the available natural resources to support development are very limited, also became the background for this conference forum.

Historically, when referring to history, the initial trigger for the concept of sustainable development itself was in the form of global concern about the phenomenon of the scarcity of natural resources, where such forms of concern occurred long before the 20th century, especially if we trace various writings. social (historical) writings in the past. The most phenomenal example can be found

in the classic work of [3]. In his writings entitled *An Essay on the Principles of Population*, Malthus describes a fear of the rapid growth of the human population -which is then not matched by the availability of food, especially the picture. of rapid industrial development in the 19th century accompanied by natural pollution and the emergence of slum areas – an area with poor sanitation. This picture is continued by the existence of social changes in the community in the form of social anarchism, including the growth of various movements related to environmental and community health in the urban population (urban). The ideas of the proto-environmentalist then emerged in several radical lines of thought of the 19th century. Meanwhile, several steps were also taken with a scientific and systematic understanding of the interrelationships between natural species, populations, and their environments as in Darwin's *Theory of Evolution* and the origins of ecological science [4].

This picture of Malthus in the past has raised awareness, as in the 1960s, which gave rise to the presence of movements against environmental pollution from the effects of industrialization, which paid more attention to the inter-relationship between human activities and the natural environment. Using a “systems” approach and computer model, in 1972 was born *Limit of Growth*, a project of the Club of Rome, an organization of individuals who share a common concern for the future of humanity. Funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, *Limit of Growth* is a study of the interrelationships between population, industrial growth, food production, and the limitations of ecosystems on Planet Earth. Various ideas about "sustainable development" then flowed and became more widespread, especially in the mid-1980s, when the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Influential World Conservation Strategy (1980) or the International Union for Conservation of Nature proposed the concept of Sustainable Development or a development that considers the function of ecosystems and biodiversity to be maintained. However, despite the large number of literature/works that have been published related to the concept of sustainable development the concept is not necessarily widely accepted. Only later in 1987, in a conference forum through the Brundtland Commission report, it was stated that Sustainable Development took the concept of "borrowing" instead of "legacy", where a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In the context of Indonesia itself, the concept of sustainable development was first introduced and stated in national policy through Presidential Decree No. 13/1989 on the Five-Year Development Plan (Repelita) and MPR Decree No. II/MPR/1993 on the Outlines of State Policy [5]. Although long before, during the Dutch East Indies period, there were regulations/ordinances related to the environment that were issued. As in the Decree of the Governor-General of Indenburg in 1916, namely *Parelvisscherij, Sponssenvisscherijordonantie* (Stable. 1916 Number 157). This regulation regulates pearl fisheries and sponge fisheries. Then, in 1920, Governor General Decree Number 86, namely *Visscherijordonantie* (Stable 1920 Number 396) which regulates fisheries to protect the condition of fish. Another ordinance in the related field is the *Kustvisscherijordonantie* (Stable 1927 Number 144). In addition, there is also an ordinance that is very important for the environment, namely the *Hidnder-Ordonnantie* (Stable 1926 Number 226) which was amended/added lastly by Stable 1940 Number 450, namely the "nuisance ordinance". In the field of industrial companies, the *Bedrijfsregelemen-teringsordonnantie* 1934 (Stable 1938 Number 80 jo. Stable 1948 Number 224) has also been issued, as well as many other similar ordinances [6]. Meanwhile, during the Japanese occupation of Indonesia, it can be said that there were no special

regulations regarding the environment. The rules issued by the Japanese government at that time related to the prohibition of cutting down Agatha, alba, and balsam trees. Logging can be done with permission from Gunzeikan. This is based on Osuma S. Kanrei Number 6 regarding the prohibition referred to above. The existence of this provision is closely related to the Japanese government's need for the three types of wood that they use to make gliders (gliders) as a means of transportation to transport army logistics [6].

### **B. History and Its Role in Nation Development**

The development of historiography at the global and local levels in Indonesia itself has experienced significant developments. Various traditions of writing history/historiography carried out by several major civilizations have been able to have an impact on the lives of other nations. In this case, the works of historians from several major civilizations were then able to inspire and have an impact on the formation of the character and character of a nation as a nation that can stand on its own feet in its scientific development [7].

In the development of today's modern times, people who master information technology can become people who can determine the direction and orientation of their knowledge. Scientific developments will then become more inclusive so that they can be accessed by a wide audience. In short, science and technology do not become the monopoly of a single group of people, as the past/history is only studied by the monks in historical temples. With the times, the information revolution occurred. Every aspect of science and technology then competes to be used and applied openly. Consequently, science and technology must be adaptive and then practical-applicative. This kind of development is also what history is trying to achieve as a scientific discipline. Thus, historical writing based on documentation and developing into developmentalism becomes very urgent to be considered by various parties. Not only that, the predictive nature of historical science is then required to be able to answer various interests of future orientation (to become what is known as future history). Therefore, not only ideographic, history in modern times then developed nomothetically [8].

In the context of science, history then proceeds according to its nature to become more perfect, rational, objective, and by other scientific traditions. Such developments in the current era are appropriate and must occur considering that history is a child of the times and each generation will write its history. At this point then, history must play a role in facing the challenges of the times. With such rapid changes, history also transforms. The change here certainly does not mean that the thoughts of historians in the past are no longer relevant, but it means that history as a science must be able to play a role in the process of social transformation of society related to nation-building. Thus, the science of history will not be a science that is not "authoritative" in the arena of science.

The contemporary world at that time demands that every discipline can be a tool and not just an end. The dictum that science works for the sake of science has been considered obsolete because it only creates a disparity between scientists and the reality of the society in which they live. For the science of history, various methodologies and curricula that are suitable in the process of supporting the linkage and equivalence of history as a science with aspects of science and technology and other developments of the times absolutely must be developed. The dictum of science works for science, making science isolated and giving rise to the phenomenon of the ivory tower so that it creates the impression of luxury and "counter-productive". As Benedetto Croce said, the present or the contemporary must dominate selection and analysis. Especially from the point of view of the

present-minded, the discipline of history must be able to increase quantitative and qualitative understanding of the surrounding problems, and help find solutions for a more ideal future. As a result, the science of history has not become a science that is dry, boring, and irrelevant to the present, especially in the 21st century. So, history with its social function must also provide information about the causes of a certain pattern of behavior [2].

If it is assumed that the development of the times is also by the development process, then, as Samuel P. Huntington's view, which states that there will be a phenomenon where people will miss their culture in the past, because of its organic nature that can make humans more human when compared to mechanical properties. that plagues human life in the development of an increasingly advanced era [9]. If so, history (science) is increasingly gaining relevance. History which is a collective memory of the past, which involves various aspects of the socio-cultural journey of society will be a mirror for today's life. This is because history can be a gateway to getting to know the culture of a nation, and historians can then become a transmitter of cultural collective memories. Thus, the science of history then plays an important role in the process of building the identity of a nation. The ability to teach history will have the effect of continuing to be an inspiration for the development of community culture. Through history, we know the actions, thoughts, and struggles of humans in revealing their fate in the past. History supports the foundation for the personality of a nation in the form of conditions provided and inherited from experience. Historical knowledge provides the basis for determining the direction of the struggle into the future.

Historians as those who develop history as a science, of course then have an important sign that cannot be separated from the role of historical science in development. In this case, historians should be able to experiment with various measures of regulation of these changes. At the same time, historians are required to be able to review the format of the roles they will take while still being able to keep up with the times. Historians must be able to come into direct contact with real problems in society, which therefore must have predictive abilities into the future. Consequently, historians do not only talk about the past and sich but also have to talk about (predictions) the future [10]. This ability provides a "burden" for historians to be able to overcome various problems related to the development process in society. The next historian must be able to carry out social engineering in each of their historical analysis, in the form of planning and building institutions, which aim to restrain, control, or accelerate the emergence of certain social changes [11].

### **C. Historical Functions and Awareness in Sustainable Development**

In the context of sustainable development, history as a science has a role to play in realizing one of the goals – although it can also be applied to several other goals, sustainable development, namely ensuring adequate and inclusive quality education and encouraging lifelong learning opportunities for all. Although there is still an assumption that history does have pragmatic uses, including for education and the formation of national identity, it has no practical use. Therefore, history is not considered part of the common intelligence. When talking about the role of social science in development, history is always left behind [12]. In this case, the importance of history for sustainable development does not refer to the nature of its writings (scientific history and popular history), but to its function, especially the function of history as a story (scientific history writing). The historical functions (as stories) that need to be understood are informative, educational functions, inspirational functions, and pragmatic functions [13].

The informative function can mean that through historical information, a nation becomes increasingly aware of its identity. This is because history can provide information about the origin of a nation so that what is done has a strong historical footing. The educational function can mean that the informative function can be an important learning – holistically. This learning is then accompanied by a critical attitude so that moral learning can also be drawn. These things eventually become important for sustainable development, especially if they are associated with several principles in sustainable development, namely an integrative-holistic approach and using a long-term perspective – not only the present and the future but also involving the perspective of the past. The function of inspiration can mean that all past experiences can be an inspiration to behave and act or be creative in facing today's life. Human life today is filled and equipped with experiences from ancestors. The knowledge, intelligence, and skills that currently exist are the experiences of our ancestors and parents who went through the process of transmission. These experiences are then added and refined to be passed on to future generations [14]. In the context of sustainable development, these things are certainly closely related to the concept of "sustainability" that exists, both in history and in the concept of sustainable development itself. The pragmatic function can mean that all previously existing functions can be used as reference material for stakeholders in making various policies and work programs that support the achievement of sustainable development goals. These historical functions are important to understand properly and correctly as learning materials in the broad development process [15].

"Hana nguni hana mangke, tan hana nguni tan hana mangke" ("There was then then there is now, if there wasn't then there wouldn't be now"). Such is the expression in one of the ancient Sundanese manuscripts. This expression means that history is a continuous process. Thus, we, by referring to our ancestors (having the ability) can predict future life, which is stated in a statement called "uga" (a kind of prophecy). However, these historical functions can only be understood properly if they are accompanied by historical awareness. Namely, awareness to love history and understanding of the importance of history [13]. Historical awareness is a force that can make a nation stand tall despite being hit by various trials and tribulations. The nation will experience the continuity of life well and precisely. With this historical awareness, a nation will be able to participate in a more realistic future. Our historical journey into the future has come to a crossroads between inward-looking development and outward-looking development [12].

Although there are still problems, especially the view that in general the function of history has not been well understood by most people, efforts to increase historical awareness still need to be seen from two sides. Not only historians, but the general public also needs to understand the function and awareness of history well. This means that history is not only used as a collection of static knowledge but can be applied within the framework of regional and national development. Do not let the understanding of history be limited to fairy tales, myths, or legends which results in the function of history being /not well understood.

## CONCLUSION

This article can be concluded several things, first, history has a significant meaning in dealing with the times. History (as a science) plays a role in providing awareness (enlightenment) for the community to raise awareness in the community (nation and state) as part of a broad development effort. Second, sustainable development, as part of the concept of development, has close relevance to historical science. In its historical course, the concept of sustainable development

is the concept of continuity in development that can be traced in many works of the social history of society. Third, history is a collective memory of the past, which involves various aspects of the socio-cultural journey of a society that will become a mirror for today's life. This is because history can be a gateway to getting to know the culture of a nation, and historians can then become a transmitter of cultural collective memories. Thus, the science of history then plays an important role in the process of building the identity of a nation. Not only that, but historians also have an important role to be able to answer real problems in the community through the historical knowledge they control. Fourth, in direct relation to sustainable development, history has a role to play in realizing one of the goals of sustainable development, namely ensuring adequate and inclusive quality education and encouraging lifelong learning opportunities for all. This goal can be achieved by applying the four important functions of historical science to create historical awareness. History will understand its importance for sustainable development. History then shows that the continuity of history also leads to the importance of national unity and integrity. That is, history is a unifying medium for the nation. On this basis, it is relevant to agree with Bung Karno's message "Never Forget History", or "JASMERAH".

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