Trade Flux’s Influence Upon Southeast Asian Economical Backwardness During 17th Century

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Abstract. Southeast Asia as a region of exotic lands located between China and India countries on Indian Oceanic passageway of which little was known. Southeast’s Asian earliest center’s of power emerged between the first and fifteenth centuries CE, as their leaders faced issues relative to ruling their domains, which were mainly moving form highly localized tribal and clan-based societies. In the predominant world, the Southeast Asian region was illustrated in international sources as wealth land. The story of economic development in early Southeast Asia begins long before the Christian Era. Southeast Asia had already been for centuries a region with unique cultural identity. Trade has been important facet for Southeast Asia, since it obtained numerous commodities as clove, sandalwood, camphor, pepper that had been traded since Rome and Han era. As time passed, many trade activities faced failures which indicated economical backwardness. This article tries to emphasize the trade flux’s impact upon Southeast Asian economical backwardness in 14th century.

1. Introduction
During ancient and medieval era, Southeast Asia was considered lower compared to South Asia dan East Asia. After AD 1000, the region then was able to establish large cities referring to global standard. Southeast Asia population was mainly concentrated in certain areas which specifically rich or along some great rivers. Cities emergence due to not only agricultural technique advance, but also trade. Relating cultural influence, those cities were formed based mixture local, China, and India cultural influence. Southeast Asia is a region with similar cultural figures which forms boundary upon its neighbours. It is unquestionably that India dan China have influenced this region for thousand years, yet Southeast Asia is proved to obtain original features towards these two regions [1] [2] [3].

History of Southeast Asian history was facing a new fashion, in which Eurocentric perspective upon colonial economy now is slowly changing into local prespective emphasizing similarities and mutual relationships among regions. Economic growth in Southeast Asia is considered established upon private business and intensity markets pressure. Economic history in Southeast Asia currently a field of study very much in action. Economic history in Southeast Asia today establishes from the relation upon challenges in contemporary economic life [4]. However, the recent condition of economical circumstance of Southeast Asia could not be separated of the past events, in which pre-colonial and colonial era were playing quite significant towards Southeast Asian history today. Within this period, trade was spotted as major activity that influenced economical condition, also 17th crisis.

In many forms of world history, the traders are necessarily taking significant role. Trade as an action is primarily taken for granted as the expression of human being origin to exchange goods and earn profit. The movements of commodities is indirectly considered to entail the
involvement of professional traders. Those who were successful came to obtain notable role within politics of societies and to influence the commercial regulations of ancient states [5] [6].

Trade paths bring not only commodities or goods, but also community and insights. [7] [1]. Traders were particularly a single kind of economic business, in which the host society was an established community with varied jobs, class stratification, as well as political division between the chief and people. Cross cultural trade occurs within a context in which traders quest for protection through diplomacy [7].

Trade had been one of the most ancient activity throughout history everywhere. Basically, we can simply point out that some goods were moved from one area of Mediterranean to another; and several historical records of nineteenth century and early twentieth centuries that had to do with trade pay attention towards compiling list of object trade as an end in itself. The literary documents for goods movements are almost entirely defined to some great ancient cities such as Rome, Alexandria, and Athens [5]. Recent historians are able to establish more detailed information regarding imports and export on annual basis, charting profits of cities and even individual merchant families in which classic historians are left to the blank evidence that Rome frequently bought lions from Africa [5].

Since the early centuries CE, some high civilizations of Western and Chinese indicated Southeast Asia as an exotic region between India and China within Indian Ocean. It should be noticed that, the first power’s heart occurred between the first and early fifteenth centuries CE, since the chiefs encountered issues in ruling their domains, which were majority concern about transition from highly localized tribal and clan-based societies [2][8].

Trade itself had become inasperable activity within Southeast Asia, since its peculiar feature could be touched along sea traffic path and covers maritime route between China and settlements centers such as India, Middle East, and Europe, this region under the wind had been always affected upon international maritime trade [9]. Hence, trade is one of the remarkable features that can be traced carefully within Southeast Asia history. It presence established economical pattern which distinctive compare to the other regions.

Trade within Southeast Asia region itself occurred due to the natural prosperous wealth, that also influenced by Chinese merchants. As it known, Tang Dynasty had frequently stimulated trade growth of Srivijaya in 8th and 9th century [9]. Southeast Asia whole picture of trade, spices which were attached world wide traders were actually earned insignificant part. Instead, there were rice, salt, salted-fish, palm wine, textile, metal stuff which were carried by vessel passing calm water within Sunda. [9].

One of the most notable reasons for major population of Southeast Asian maritime cities or emporia was merchants and tailors to spend several mons in local ports to offer their products, managing a return cargo, as well as waiting the monsoon to change. The annual conditions of weather indicated that some notable shipping routes. Many traders from all over Asia spent a year and a half to visit several ports to obtain the best return cargo. Hence, Southeast Asian trading cities were filled with foreign traders at their peak season [10].

As we all have been noticed, one of the most precious places to be visited regarding spices availability was Maluku. Referring to Chinese geographist, Wang Ta-yuan [11] that Chinese vessels were regularly making visits to Maluku in 1340’s to pack a mount of clove. Maluku’s export quantity increased suddenly towards Europe and China around 1400’s, and slowly spread out in 15th century. Massive demands upon Southeast Asia’s natural resources was affected by prosperity situation and trade toleration in China. Right before 17th century, it is unquestionably that China was the most notable market for Southeast Asia trade point [12].
As time gone for, Europeans appeared to extent their demands during the last 16th and early 17th century by occupying the biggest amount of spices from Maluku and pepper within Southeast Asia [13]. This fact brings an intial insight upon Southeast Asia’s economical backwardness during 17th century, in which started with VOC establishment through monopoly practice which successfully dragging Southeast Asia from global networking trade being excluded indirectly.

2. Methods  
This study engages literature review method adapting to Fink’s (2005). Literature review is operative definition of a systematic literature review, as follows “a systematic, explicit, and reproducible method in order to identifying, evaluating, and synthesizing the current body of accomplished and recorded research established by reseachers, scholars, and praticioners. The literature review method applied in this research as follows;  
1. Planning (reseachers determining the purpose of the literature review and protocol and training)  
2. Selection (searching the literature and practical screen)  
3. Extraction (quality appraisal anddata extraction)  
4. Excecution (analyzing of findings and writing the review) [14].

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Economical Growth Barriers

Referring to the graph, it could be seen that Europeans had been giving the best numbers. The total amount of spices of Maluku being delivered to Europe were recorded upon Italians trade agents’ annual report including natural resources of east sent from Mamluk Alexandria and Beirut to Venecia, Genoa, and Barcelona [9]. On the western end of Mamluk dynasty contracted to Venetian traders to support the Asian gods flow into European markets after crusade era. Southeast Asia responded by expanding commodities of pepper, tin, and spices, as well as new
emporia. But, this massive development of trade came to distracted since Portuguese’s vessels arrived in the Indian Ocean. They carried a deep antipathy towards Muslims derived from crusading thought. Portuguese journey attempted to encircle the control obtained upon spices trade by Venice and Muslim counterparts who dominated almost a century within eastern Mediterranean [15] [2] [9].

Many historians notice Southeast Asia’s ages of commerce to be periods of major social and economic transformation. These periods witnesses prominent changes, which is emergence and cosmopolitanization of emporia as commerce hubs to new shapes of consumption and increased monetization. During 1400-1630, there was economical phase of monetization and commercialization went rapidly. Within Indonesian archipelago appeared small kingdoms which collapsed in 16th and 17th century. Jambi and Palembang in 16th and Banjarmasin in 17th represent emporiums that controlled Spices export upon hinterland [9][8].

Renaissance in 16th century of Europe brought shifting of interaction manner towards other regions, as well as their view into Asians. Basically, this shifting was intensify interaction towards global economic in 15th and 16th century and global economical faded in the middle of 17th century. These changes provide massive impact on every aspect of life [9].

3.2 Southeast Asian Trade in 15th-17th Century

It is been known that a new era of Southeast Asia was began in 1500 during the arrival of Europeans. The expansion of European empire in Asia started by Vasco da Gama and the discovery of sea route between Europe and India. Southeast Asia would have never be able to isolate itself upon international trade pressure. Since, the Chinese expansion in 15th and 16th century was assumed the most prominent stimulus towards Southeast Asian commerce growth, the trade to west was also increased intensively [10].

In examining economical state of Southeast Asia within trade period, we may begin with similar characteristics, also main actors who involve in global trading extension. As stated before, during 14th to 17th century trade had growth rapidly. It reached the fastest flow in 1570-1630. Trade occupied major part for Southeast Asia’s domestic income and enabling higher urbanization stage compared to following centuries afterwards. Town managed communities which completely rely onto trade activities, also transaction institutions related to vessels, profit sharing, and loans.

Over the centuries, Asian trade goods were transformed European cities. Since, Vasco da Gama’s discovery of sea route to India in 1498, where Venice taken by Lisbon then became significant entrepôt of Europe during the late of 16the century, along with Seville, Antwerp, and Genoa [16]. The increase of Southeast Asian commodities since 1500 were mostly all managed to accomplish the rapid demand of Europe [10] [9]. The 16th and 17th century were marked by discovery voyages of European expansion. It prosper global trade and new manners towards nature and natural history research [8].

Between 1570-1600 beside Portuguese, other Europeans attempted to perform trading within Indian Ocean. There appearance indicated a new stage, a new and heavier weight of Europe upon Asian affairs. But, Europe’e technological was still behind such maritime transportation, while sailing ships technology grew massively in 16th and 17 century. Thus, they bought Asian manufacture [7] [15].

Some notable places, as China, India, and Japan in fact were step ahead compared to Southeast Asia in the sense of economical state. Town covers markets and palaces. Once the trade flows rapidly, we may suspect that market gains more profit that palace [9]. There are
several writings illustrating trade advance within Southeast Asia region, such as Denys Lombard, Hamzah Fansuri, and Bukhari [17].

3.3 Discussion

Since Europeans appearance throughout Southeast Asian regions, there were changes occurred, since we supposed to embrace how this area entered modern era. These shifting basically in term of interaction intensity upon global economy during 16th and 17th century, and coming to decline in 17th century. Due to global trade, Southeast Asia manages bigger experiences with Western Europe and Japan compared to other regions of Asia.

The mayor differences between Southeast Asia compared to other regions was the absence of private capital recognition, in which hampered financial institution development and constant capital accumulation. In one hand, markets were growing rapidly. In the other hand, kings’ force derived some clashes, that could not be dealt using short term management.

During 18th century, Europeans started to determine the reason why Southeast Asian people were hardly to be wealthy. The prominent reason is culture difference. Kings and people within Southeast Asia shared different views compared to Europe in 17th century. The most significant difference between Southeast Asia and Europe is close connection between power and trade. Rulers and their ministers were keen in trade and poems. Successful traders were tend to be rulers, whether making alliance or establishing new force.

Saik van Leur [18] argues that the absence of traders class with their own desire within palaces is a detention towards capitalism development. Difference circumstance was found in India and Western Europe, where traders’ caste and minority groups towards rulers who considered their low class also hampered for continuous development in economical context [19]. However, during 17th century, was considered as notable event, since Southeast Asian people were drawn upon intensity international trade. Despite economical factors, also effected by military and political forces. There were several emporia being destroyed physically and or being occupied by the enemies in 16th and 17th century.

The backwardness of Southeast Asia trade within 17th century could be defined as VOC victory upon military and economic. While, sometimes being added the appearance of hinterland states which were agricultural based. Another fact that should also be noticed is coming from the outside. In this sense, Japanese’s government forbid their people to sail outside the country, as well as restricted foreign trade only with China and Netherland in Nagasaki. England, Germany, and Spain also faced terrific civil wars between 1620 and 1650. They had lost glory and power within global politic.

The decrease of global trade to be exact was the first half of 17th century. The most significant feature found in European trade. It mainly caused by repeating wars between Spain and Dutch in 1621, which blocked Dutch route towards Iberia peninsula and Middle Sea also took Spain in depressed.

4. Conclusion

Europeans came to Asia in pursuit of the famous spices of their home. Then, they attempted this desire by engaging military forces to monopolize spices’ trade. It was started with Melacca defeated by Portuguese in 1511, due to its position as the centre of Southeast Asian export trade. Then, Dutch appeared with VOC who was one of the most advanced capitalist institutions. VOC succeeded operating the world’s first global commercial enterprise and managing many ships to
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the East annually. The retread of Southeast Asian trade has to do with these military and economic successes of Dutch.

Southeast Asia economical backwardness in term of trade flux was influenced through many facets, both derived from inside and outside region. European appearance had made significant borderline into Southeast Asia history, which also greeted the people into modernism. Their interest towards spices established strong desire to monopolize the emporia, such Melacca and Maluku.

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