



**THE IMPACT OF NAPOLEONIC WAR TOWARD GREAT BRITAIN'S
CONDITION AS REFLECTED IN WILLIAM THACKERAY'S VANITY FAIR
(SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH)**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to describe the social conditions that occurred in England after the Napoleonic war. This type of method is library research. Data collection was carried out through observation and documentation. Data were analyzed using a sociological approach. The results showed that the condition of British society after the Napoleonic war was still good in its education system with modern and intellectual thinking. British society realizes that education is very important for everyone to be more responsible. In fact, social relations that were conducive to change become individuals during war. The Napoleonic war had a negative impact on the life of British society, especially on psychological conditions and economic development. In conclusion, Britain's socio-economic life was destroyed after the war. All economic sources such as industry, agriculture and factories are getting worse. People only think how to protect themselves from war.

Keywords: Great Britain, Impact, Napoleonic War, Sociological Approach, Vanity Fair

INTRODUCTION

War is a state of battle between nations or groups within a nation using military force (Hornby, 1995). War is a conflict between two countries where many people fight for any purpose, usually because of three things, namely wealth, throne, and women. It always happens all the time in human life, especially in society. The war that occurs in society is called a civil war. Civil war is a military conflict arising from the desire to make radical changes in society as a result of cultural, social, religious, political or economic strife due to diametrically opposed and uncompromising ideas about leadership, administration and management of the population and territory. It was accomplished through the use of weapons. For example, the conflict that had occurred in British social life because Napoleon would enlarge his domination and territory or what is commonly called the Napoleonic war.

The occurrence of the Coalition War was not something that happened suddenly, but it was the end of a process for Napoleon's appointment as emperor of France. The development of the French state led by Emperor Napoleon made the political situation in the European region heated up with tensions that led to coalition war (Trissusilo, 2015). The Napoleonic War consisted of a series of global conflicts during Napoleon Bonaparte's imperial rule over France (1804-1815). They formed an extension of the war sparked by the

French Revolution in 1789. These war revolutionized European armies and artillery and military systems and took place on a scale never seen before, mainly due to the adoption of modern mass, conscription. French power rose rapidly, conquering most of Europe and collapsing rapidly after the catastrophic invasion of Russia (1812) and the empire of Napoleon finally suffered a complete military defeat, which resulted in the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy in France in 1814 and 1815.

The Spanish Empire collapsed when the French occupation was weak. It lost all its colonies in South America to the nationalist revolution. It did not exist during the revolutionary war period and when the Napoleonic War began on 19 November 1799. The war between England and France ended when Bonaparte crowned Emperor. The Napoleonic War ended in November 1815, following Napoleon's final defeat at Waterloo and the Second Treaty of Paris. Some sources (mainly in Great Britain) sometimes refer to the period of nearly continuous warfare from 20 April 1792 to 20 November 1815 collectively as the Great French war. Some historians also choose the battle of Waterloo as the epilogue of the English-French Second Hundred Year's war, which began under William III in 1689.

Many famous Authors in the world who have created kinds of famous novels and they had always remembered their major until now, such as William Thackeray whom he had documented the Napoleonic war into Vanity Fair novels. Thackeray, an only child, was born in Calcutta, India, on July 18, 1811 where his father, Richmond Thackeray (1 September 1781-13 September 1815), held the high rank of secretary to the board of revenue in the British East India Company. His mother, Anne Becher (1792-1864) was the second daughter of Harriet and John Harman Becher who was also a secretary for the East India Company.

Vanity Fair novel is the best novel on 1847 and reputed in the society on other hand Vanity Fair is as the best movie on 2004 and 2005. On 2004 Vanity Fair Movie got award Golden Lion in Venice Film Festival, on 2005 Vanity Fair Movie had two awards, namely Golden Satellite Award in Satellite Awards and ALFS Award in London Critics Circle Film Awards (International Movie Data Based).

The story of the novel is that of two girls who meet in school, Rebecca Sharp and Amelia Sedley. After leaving school, the girls remain, friends and Amelia, brings the orphan Rebecca into her home to meet her family. Rebecca, however, is an extremely manipulative, grasping woman who is only interested in marrying up. At first, she sets her designs on Amelia's brother but then eventually has to leave to start a new career as a governess in the Crawley household. Rebecca charms everyone she meets, and she marries the young Mr. Crawley within months, hoping that he is heir to his elderly aunt's fortune. Unfortunately, the aunt is upset by marriage and takes Rebecca's husband, Rawdon out of her will.

Meanwhile, Rawdon, Amelia's new husband, George and his best friend, Dobbin are sent to Germany to fight Napoleon's army. During the battle of Waterloo, George dies and Amelia is heartbroken but shortly afterward learns that she is pregnant with his child. Rebecca is also pregnant but not as enthusiastic about having a child. Many years pass with Amelia raising her son and Rebecca and Rawdon going from country to country, making their way up into high society and then eventually having to flee the country to avoid their creditors.

After a while, Rawdon caught Rebecca with another man and divorced her, taking their son. Dobbin admits that he has loved Amelia for years and finally they got married. Shortly thereafter, Rawdon died and his son inherited the family property. He and Amelia, Dobbin and their children lived in London as happy neighbors while Rebecca disappeared to live her own life (Thackeray, 1847).

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is included in library research. Researchers define data sources into primary sources and secondary sources. Primary sources are William Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* novels and secondary sources are drawn from books or other relevant materials to support the analysis. The subject of this research is the *Vanity Fair* novel by William Thackeray. The language used in this novel is English. The *Vanity Fair* novel was published in 1847. The novel contains 368 pages.

RESULT

The author considers that the *Vanity Fair* novel represents the social conditions of British society during the Napoleonic War. British society realizes that education is very important for everyone to be more responsible. It shows that their life is getting better and more intellectual. On the other hand, after the war broke out, social relations between people became unfamiliar and even kinship was sometimes lost. People only prioritize their own safety. Britain's social and economic life was devastated after the war.

DISCUSSION

The British society life was good. People had already grown their modern and intellectual thought and the society considers that education is very important for everybody. They tried to get good knowledge in their life like the Sadleys. Amelia Sadley was sent to Miss Pinkerton's academic when she was a child until seventeen years old to be a lady. She was educated and trained to be smart lady. The social life run harmoniously and it could be seen at Amelia's relationship with Rebecca who met her in the Miss. Pinkerton's Academy. They were like a harmonious family although they came from the different social class. Amelia came from rich family while Rebecca came from poor family. They never thought about the differences. The evidence is as follows:

"Rebecca was invited to stay with Amelia's family for a week before she had to leave for the Crawley" (Thackeray, 1847).

It proved that social life was very good. They did not look at differences of social condition. The society life was average as rich people, but their life styles were very simple, they were not self-assertive. With good education everybody is brave to have responsibility in their activities. Such as something happened at Joseph Sadley, Amelia's brother who worked in the East India Company. Whenever he went to the party with Amelia and Rebecca, he enjoyed himself until being drunk and made every women were restless, especially Miss Rebecca. After being conscious, he begged pardon to Miss Rebecca although he only did it by letter like the following:

“Dear Amelia,

I was too ill to come yesterday. I am leaving London today to drink the healthy waters of Cheltenham. Please ask to Miss Sharp to forgive me for last night in Vauxhall. Ask her to every word. When I am better, I shall go to Scotland for some months. Yours, Joseph Sedley” (Thackeray, 1847).

It is real evidence that society life was very responsible. It is a fact that the level of education in Britain was growing up very well. It could make good human quality, so the country became prosperous.

Conducive situation in the middle of society which was very peaceful, safe, and quiet was changing quickly to be in conducive after Napoleon regiments declared to go to the battle. All of societies who heard that news were restless, pale, shocked, and confused. Especially to the armies, they were shocked immediately after listening it, as presented at George Osborne, Joseph Sadley, Captain Crawly and Rawdon after meeting Captain Dobbin who carried news that all of the armies should go the Belgium to the battle area. The news came quickly and it was done immediately. The citizen hurried to move to another country, they followed armies moving to Belgium like going to a great party.

The social life turned to be individual when the war begun. The society did not care to other people and surroundings. They themselves just focused at their own life. Such as Joseph who was worried at this thing.

“When Joseph heard guns from Quatre Bras, he was wild with fear. We will all die! He cried. I must leave Brussels. I must find horses. But everyone was trying to leave and there were no horses. Joseph met Rebecca in the street. When she looked at his frightened face, she through, he will buy my horses” (Thackeray, 1847).

Social relationship among the societies became un-intimate, and also family relationship was sometime lost. As Amelia and Becky, they were close friends but they were separated when the war began. They decided the best and the subset survive during the war. In the safe place they never tried to wait for the news about the result of war.

Impacts of Napolenic War

In this section the writter discussed the impact of Napoleonic war which made disadvantages in many aspects in Britain socially as well as psychologically and from the economic point of view.

Psychological Condition

The big impact of the war in society is psychological factor which needs a lot of time to repair. Societies that had a war trauma in their life cannot be cured quickly. Trauma always stays in the human imagination and it influences their life. In the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of mental disorder (DSM.IV-TR) it is stated that a trauma reaction includes one or two of the following: (1) A person who has experienced, witnessed, or encountered an adverse event that caused death, serious injury or threatening physical self or others; (2) individual reactions to fear, a sense of hopelessness, horror (children may experience behavioral disorders) (Hatta, 2015).

The American Psychiatric Association (2000) defines trauma in several aspects, namely: (1) trauma is defined as pain experienced by a person that affects psychologically and physically so that it has an impact on life such as decreased levels of productivity and

daily activities; (2) Trauma occurs due to events. whether physical or mental causes direct damage to the body or shock to the mind; (3) Trauma occurs because there is extreme worry or worry that is traumatized by physical and psychological effects that can cause emotional distress triggered by an acute bitter event; (4) Trauma is an increase in symptoms of stress (stress) causing emotional disturbances to children or school students will cause changes in behavior, changes in emotions and thoughts; (5) Trauma is also said to be a bodily injury caused by external physical energy such as gunshots, fires, accidents, sharp weapon stabbing, fighting wounds, rapes, technological neglect and so on.

Worry and restlessness always accompany the society in the daily life, such as something that was felt by Amelia Sadley, George Osborn's wife. George was one of the British armies. Amelia was shocked when she heard that her husband was died in the battle area. She did not believe the news which was brought by Captain Dobbin. To prove that the news was true Captain Dobbin gave her a letter which had been written by George Osborn before he went to the battle and he asked Captain Dobbin to give the letter to his wife and his family. George's letter was like below:

"We are leaving in an hour for great battle. So I want to say goodbye to you. And I am asking you to be good to my wife, and perhaps to my unborn child. I am afraid that that I already spent a large part of my mother's money. Thank you for all your kindness to me in the past. I promise you this, father. If I fall on the battlefield, I shall do it bravely. You fill be proud of me.

George" (Thackeray, 1847).

Trauma and restlessness in the society which are experienced by the Army family can be cured if their family is safe in the battlefield as Rawdon's family. They were sad when Ramadan left them, but when the battle was over and they heard that Rawdon had survived the battle, they looked very happy. this can be seen from the following words:

"A few weeks after the battle of Waterloo, a box arrived in Brighton for Miss Crawely. She already knew from newspaper that Rawdon was brave at waterloo and was now a colonel. Inside the box were presents and latter from Rawdon. The letter told Miss Crawely, in a musing way, how Rawdon got a presents from French soldier on the field battle" (Thackeray, 1847).

Traumatic in the society life can be printed as: if they hear loud sounds, they will be afraid. To recover from their traumatic, it will take a lot of time.

Economic Development

Interaction between nations in the form of cooperation and conflict is based more on economic than political reasons. Economic factors show their dominance over political factors. International relations between West-East, North-South, developed countries-developing countries-poor countries are all based more on economic reasons. The economy has been the key to the status and ranking of the nation-state in the global system (Yuniarti, 2013).

The British economic social life had destroyed after the war. All of the economic sources such as industry, agriculture and factory are all abandoned. People just thought how to safe themselves from war. The social economic life was very bad, the society did not have enough money to buy their basic need and they had to brave to defend themselves. They had to work hard to get money and did everything even in appropriate with their

profession. It is clear that, the most obvious outcome after the war was in the economic sphere, the country's first priority immediately after the war was to carry out a peacetime economic transition. A worrying time of war is when war production ceases, many workers are unemployed (Mujiati et al., 2016).

“One time, a Mr. Regles works in Miss Crowally’s house, Mrs. Raggles was a cook in the same house. His pay was good, and he got, and saved, money in other ways. The cook left her job and opened a small fruit and vegetable shop not far from Miss Crowally’s house. Then Mr. Raggles also his job, Then they added milk, butter, eggs and other fresh food to the things that they sold in the little shop. They were soon selling milk, butter and eggs to more and more horses” (Thackeray, 1847).

It was the evidence that economic social life after the war was in-conducive. Education that they got well before war happened benefit to them to find the job. It can be used to look for money to complete their life in daily. War changed human characteristic to be individual in their life. People don't care about each other, although they were close friend or neighbor. Money or wealth had blinded their eyes from the importance of social relationship. They just had a goal to get a lot of money to survive. Those activities created stratification in the social life.

There were social discrepancies, social disunity or social class and social class hierarchical distinctions (or stratification) between individuals or groups in societies or cultures. Usually individuals are grouped, into classes based on their economic positions or similar political and economic interests within the stratification system.

In the middle of poor country situation, money is very important things. Having lot of money, people can get all of their need. Like Mr. Osborne, George Osborne’s father. After George Osborne was died, he needed theirs grandchild to live with him and he took him from Amelia by giving her some money.

“Mr. Osborn is offering to take the boy, George Osborne. He will leave him all this money when Mr. Osborn dies. He will pay you, Mrs. George Osborne, two hundred pounds a year. You must understand that the child will live all the time with his grandfather. You, Mrs. George Osborne can see him sometimes hear or at your house” (Thackeray, 1847).

Daily working did not result to satisfy their needs. To complete their needs, they borrowed from debt collector, although they must pay the interest. Sometimes if someone can not give the money back on time appropriately at the date line, the debt collectors did their act. Such as letter which wrote by Rawdon, he said that if I can not pay the interest to debt collector, they would arrest and carried him to the prison. This is one of strategy that used debt collector to get their money back and got the big loan or big interest, can be see below:

Dear Becky

“They have got me in prison. It is the debt to Nathan hundred and fifty pounds. Please get the seventy pounds in my desk and offer it to Nathan. The rest must stay a debt. If you must, you can sell my watch

Love. Rawdon” (Thackeray, 1847).

The problems of economic in the British social life after Napoleonic war included a conflict in the social life. A stratification of social class grew widely, where if someone is rich they will be more richer than poor people they never increase the economy but more decrease, so this big problem in the society, the effect from it, in the middle of society

crime will grow because to pass their life. The government had to work hard to upgrade the economic situation with a program which was called Industrial Revolution. The human power to manage industry was changed by machine power. So the British economy quickly gets better.

CONCLUSION

The British economic social life had destroyed after the war. All of economic sources such as industry, agriculture and factory are all become worse. People just thought how to safe themselves from war.

SUGGESTION

It is hoped that the public can be more interested in enriching reading about world history so that this history is not forgotten and can be used as lessons for present and future life.

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