



History and Humans: Study of the Urgency and Position of History in Human Life

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ABSTRACT

Humans in their civilization gain insight into human failures and successes through history. In this way, history provides valuable lessons that humans can apply today. Understanding history then allows humans to understand the roots of problems, conflicts and social dynamics that exist in society today. This article aims to review the urgency and position of history in human life. This article was written using a qualitative approach using the literature study method. From the results of the study, it implies that history is not just a legacy. Through history it is hoped that humans can learn and realize that everything is not instantaneous, everything goes through a process so that the future will be better. History has an important meaning for human civilization. This can be seen from the role of history as a basic reference in dealing with life today and predicting life in the future.

Keywords: *Historical Position; Historical Urgency; History; Human Civilization*

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INTRODUCTION

Humans are living creatures that are different from other creatures. Humans have curiosity and reason. Humans are in the process of living in this world. Cannot be separated from what is called learning. Learning is a process of change in the human personality, and this change is manifested in the form of increasing the quality and quantity of behavior such as increasing skills, knowledge, attitudes, habits, understanding, skills, thinking power, etc. (Widiastini, 2020). From this learning process, humans manage previous knowledge with the latest knowledge to become an accumulation of knowledge. This can be done individually or in groups.

There are various kinds of science, including history. History is a series of past events related to humans. History is a social science that is not easily understood. This assumption is often heard in various circles. In fact, in his understanding, there is often a gap between understanding history and archaeology, philology and anthropology. Even though each of these sciences has very different methods and fields of study. History is included in the school curriculum, where history must be understood not only methodologically, but also pedagogically (Martha, Sa'diyah, Maulana, & Wardo, 2023).

History is an important part of human life. The concept of history refers to the concept of time, especially time in the past. The concept of history as an event carries a picture of an experience that can be studied and understood today, to predict current and future events (Susanto, 2014). Many major world events in the past have influenced and shaped life today. No wonder, it is often said that history builds civilization. The history of building civilization refers to the important role played by historical events and processes in shaping and developing human civilization. This civilization refers to various social, political, economic, and cultural aspects achieved by a society in its history.

With an understanding of history, humans can see how their civilization has overcome challenges, experienced change, and evolved over time. History provides insight into human failures and successes, providing valuable lessons that can be applied today. Understanding history allows humans to understand the roots of problems, conflicts and social dynamics that exist in society today. By studying history, humans can identify emerging patterns, understand the origins of tensions, and find better solutions to the challenges faced by civilization today (Martha, Sa'diyah, Maulana, & Wartyo, 2023). Therefore, understanding history is useful in understanding and appreciating the role played by history in building civilization. This not only expands human knowledge about the past, but also helps humans recognize the influence and implications of past events on the present and future.

METHOD

The writing method used in this article is the library study method or often called literature study. The characteristic of this method is that researchers deal directly with texts (library data) that are available through various sources such as journals, books, dictionaries, documents, magazines, and other resources without the need for field research due to limited space and time (Mardiah & Prayogi, 2024).

The method used to collect data in this research is to collect data from reading written sources such as journal articles, books and other written sources and then analyze them objectively. Data is processed by analyzing the contents of several article sources to obtain valid data and information. Then the data is processed and analyzed in several stages, namely by selecting, comparing, combining, and sorting data from relevant insights. Meanwhile, objective here means that this article was written based on data obtained from written sources. The reason for using literature studies is because the source of information used is scientific work that is researched without involving field observations from researchers (Zuhriah & Prayogi, 2024).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Urgency of History for Humans

History is a scientific discipline that involves the study of past events, the development of civilization, and human interactions within it. Through history, humans will be able to gain a better understanding of identity, develop analytical and problem-solving skills, and increase their multicultural awareness (Siregar & Alwina, 2023).

To reveal human life in the past, history is formulated using six questions, namely What, Who, When, Where, How, Why. History is not just a legacy, through history it is hoped that humans can learn and realize that everything is not instant,

everything goes through a process so that the future will be better. History as a branch of science is structured according to the results of investigations carried out in the life of society (humans) (Gazalba, 1966). So, investigation is the channeling of human curiosity at the scientific level. Distribution until there is a cause for every effect, that every visible symptom can be scientifically explained.

Meanwhile, for a nation, history is needed to recognize self and national identity for its citizens by reviewing the history of the struggles of the nation's heroes who fought for the nation's independence. In essence, a nation's national identity is a characteristic possessed by a nation that distinguishes it from other nations, which represents the uniqueness, nature, characteristics, and character of that nation. National identity can be formed after going through a long process of history of a nation and the creation of manifestations of cultural values that develop in a nation and country (Hendrizar, 2020). Thus, history has an important position for humans to understand themselves well.

Furthermore, history has an important meaning for human (civilization). This can be seen from the role of history as a basic reference in dealing with life today and predicting life in the future. The importance of history is shown by its functions, especially informative, educative, inspirational, and pragmatic functions. In the functions of history lies the importance of history for nation building because nation building means building attitudes, character, and spirit in facing life, both for personal life and for social and state life. The importance of history for nation building does not refer to the nature of its writing (scientific history and popular history), but rather to its function, especially the function of history as a story (scientific historical writing). For the purposes of nation building, the functions of history (as a story) that need to be understood are the informative function, educational function, inspirational function, and pragmatic function.

First, the informative function. Through historical information, a nation will better understand its identity, because history (as a story) explains the origins or background of something being studied, including the origins of a nation. Second, the educational function. If historical information is properly understood based on a critical attitude, it will be known that history is related to important human experiences in the past. It is important to gain meaning from important experiences as learning. History contains lessons about weaknesses and strengths, failures and successes, setbacks and progress, arbitrariness and wisdom, and others. History contains moral education regarding good and bad, right, and wrong, and so on. History also contains a lot of local wisdom. Some of them can be applied in present and future life. For example, wisdom regarding leadership and food security. All of this is important for nation building because nation building means mental/character and spiritual development. Nation building concerns character education. In practice, history can become the basis for character education (Hardjasaputra, 2015).

Third, the inspirational function. Important events/experiences in the past can give rise to inspiration to behave and act or be creative in facing life today. This needs to be understood and applied as a supporting factor for national development. Fourth, pragmatic function. Nation building cannot be separated from the role of leaders, both formal leaders and non-formal leaders. Important events/experiences in the past can be used as reference material for leaders in creating work programs or policies to build the nation. These historical functions are important to understand properly and correctly as learning material in the nation-building process. Nation building means building life in

society, nation, and state. This is because history is a continuous process of causality. History includes three dimensions of time, namely past, present & future (Zed, 2018).

History as a Shaper of Human Character

The potential of history in forming character has strategic significance in the formation of a dignified national character and civilization as well as in the formation of people who have a sense of nationality and love of the homeland. History - as part of human learning, has great potential in developing character education. Even though the history program is one part of character education, historical material that is unique and full of value has the strongest potential to introduce people to the nation and its aspirations in the past (Simbolon, 2023).

Through history, studies can be carried out regarding what and if, why, how, and what consequences emerged from the responses of national communities in the past to the challenges they faced and their impact on life in the period after that event and in the present. Historical material can develop human potential to recognize national values that were fought for in the past, maintained and adapted for present life, and developed further for future life. Today's human civilization and all the values and life that exist are the result of human struggle in the past and will become capital for life's struggle in the future (Arrazaq, 2019).

Material in a historical event provides information about the successes and failures of a nation (humanity) in responding to the challenges of the times so that it becomes the property of today's nation, what actions were taken by historical actors who failed in achieving their goals and actions, what they did that succeeded in achieving their goals. The material contained in historical stories is not only success stories but also failure stories. Success and failure are things that happen in real human life. Both sides of life, success, and failure, are important lessons. With such material properties, in developing character education, history then develops the function of history education as a "bank of examples for solving present problems and chartering future action" (Wineburg, 2001).

In building collective memory, humans need deeper thinking about history itself. History will be able to build a collective memory as a nation because of learning if there is a strong identification process for the historical events being studied (Martha, Sa'diyah, Maulana, & Wardo, 2023). For this reason, there are several criteria for choosing to review history. First, strong identification occurs when you feel the representation of your ancestors in the struggle to build the nation since the oldest era that can be known from available historical sources. In simple terms, this is reflected in the historical events of a government or cultural unit. The government unit may be a provincial unit or if possible, a lower unit (district/city or even sub-district). Cultural units are represented by tribes. Of course, these two criteria do not have to be used separately, nor do both have to be met. If one of these criteria is met, especially the government unit, then this can be considered sufficient.

Second, an important period in representation is since the national awakening. This period was important because the struggle at this time was more popular, the leaders of the struggle were not elected because of descent/blood but rather based on ability, the direction of the struggle was clearer and firmer on the formation of the Indonesian state and nation. Third, there needs to be a balance between the historical events being studied, in this case between events that occurred in the area where one

lives (in a provincial unit or below) and events that occurred in other areas. The study and selection must be bold in determining whether to add or delete existing historical events.

Fourth, historical events that occur in the province, district/city or below which are declared/considered national historical events have priority for selection, but historical events which are declared/considered local historical events can be selected to be used as additional discussion subjects if they are national level historical events. no/not yet known. Fifth, the organization of historical material starts from events that occurred in the immediate environment to the national and international levels. In this case, history must provide an opportunity for individuals to get to know their immediate community (from a historical perspective) to their nation and humanity (city/district history, provincial history, national history).

Positioning History in Human Life

History, which is a series of events reconstructed by historians in historical research, is only summarized in historiography which tends only to be intellectual activities, but also activities that have political meaning. Various claims regarding origins, territorial sovereignty, legitimacy of power, the status of national heroes, who are the enemies and who are the victims, the role or fate of traitors and criminals, who are the elite and marginalized groups, have long been the subject of historical debate, for both political actors and historians.

Historical position is considered as historical awareness whose function is to strengthen national or collective identity. One of the reasons why disagreements regarding past conditions should be presented and facts created is an endless battle (Amiruddin, 2016). History in its position in terms of use as science, namely history in the form of only informational knowledge depending on the needs of society. Apart from that, history is a way of knowing the past. People who do not know writing rely on myths, and those who do know writing generally rely on history. There are at least two attitudes towards history after people learn about their past, namely preserving or rejecting (Syahputra, Sariyatun, & Ardianto, 2020).

Many historical writers use their knowledge to express opinions. Both by consensus and conflict. And history is always used to justify actions or evidence. History, which is a concept of collective memory, must return to its correct function or use. The use of history in this case is as "medicine", namely for education and the search for national identity. History as a science will be useful in planning and assessment, while implementation and supervision depend on the historian's "agility". Everyone studies history as a moral education that teaches them not to be black and white. So, history must speak with facts. Because what he defends is truth and honesty (Kalelu, 2021).

History as a medicine for political education so that citizens understand the condition of their nation. So as not to be indoctrinated by various interests that are detrimental to the Indonesian nation and state. History as a "medicine" for making policies requires a view of nature, society and history. While the natural environment can be fulfilled by environmental sciences and society by economics, sociology, anthropology and politics, a time-based view can only be fulfilled by history. Like a policy that was made without knowing about similar policies in the past.

In several universities in developed countries such as the United States and Europe. Study history to move towards the future. By learning from the progress and process of a country's success. So that people imitate good things to make their nation and country more advanced. Like medicine, history must be made with the correct dosage, so that it does not lead to negative things. The German state during Hitler's leadership used the history of the Aryan nation to legitimize its power and spirit of ultra-nationalism. In his efforts to dominate the world by justifying all means such as war and mass murder (Kalelu, 2021).

Historical awareness makes humans try to appreciate the hard work and complexity of efforts to uncover important events that gave rise to social changes in the past and have an impact on the present. Historical awareness will also make people appreciate the uniqueness of each situation, and even certain tendencies. Through prayer awareness, humans can see the social reality they face with all their problems. Not only as a moral problem that requires a yes or no, black, or white answer, but to be able to see social problems, including their moral aspect, as historical problems that also require historical methods of dealing with them. Historical awareness helps humans be wary of thinking that is too simple, analogies that are too shallow, analyzes that are too blunt, and acceptances that are too easily distorted (historical determinism). This means that historical awareness can prevent humans from blind phenomenal tendencies. Because of the breadth of historical awareness, history can function as an intellectual orientation that is creative, introspective, and endlessly introspective (Miftakhuddin & Senen, 2020).

If humans realize the possibility of taking part in "shaping" their future, it means they accept this responsibility as part of the assertion of their freedom. Thus, history is no longer accepted as simply satisfying human curiosity, or a source of narcissistic admiration, but becomes something that is very important for the orientation of meaningful participation in human life. This is where the importance of history has an emancipatory impulse, which is the impulse to seek and enforce freedom for oneself and society to increase the possibility of success in "changing" or "controlling" one's fate. In this case, a historian must show his freedom to determine his responsible attitude (Miftakhuddin & Senen, 2020).

Since childhood, humans have loved hearing historical stories in the form of myths, legends, heroic stories, and so on. Often, they also imagine their position in the stories. Humans are taught from an early age about customs, manners and morality, the relationships of kinship and friendship, forms of communication with different parties, a supernatural figure worthy of worship (God) and the people who proclaim it, relationships with the natural world around them, etc. All of this is wrapped up in stories passed down from time to time. It could be said that self-identity is intertwined in such a way with all these stories, including human future, that is history (Anamofa, 2016).

Over time, the understanding emerged that each person has their own history, even though, historical works rarely deal with everyday human stories which are considered ordinary because the perspective of historical writing is still focused on big narratives, figures. large organizations, institutions, and so on. Even though it does not always appear in historical works, life experiences that pass-through time will be firmly recorded in memory and become raw material that is processed in the most essential consciousness of human life, historical consciousness.

CONCLUSION

History is a series of past events related to humans. History is a social science that is not easily understood. History is an important part of human life. The concept of history refers to the concept of time, especially time in the past. The concept of history as an event carries a picture of an experience that can be studied and understood today, to predict current and future events. Many major world events in the past have influenced and shaped life today.

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