



Keraton Agung Universe and the Importance of Critical Thinking



Raja dan Ratu Keraton Agung Sejagat (KOMPAS.com/istimewa)

At present a variety of new information, whether it is true or not, has emerged and is easily accessible through social media (social media) and other media.

With technological sophistication, information is easily spread and becomes a chain message.

However, the truth of that information should be addressed with critical thinking.

The phenomenon of royal and cultural residues

The emergence of information about the Great Palace of the Kingdom in Purworejo, Central Java as the successor to the Kingdom of Majapahit and the Sunda Empire-Earth Empire in Bandung, West Java, which is highly viral, is inseparable from the role of the mass media in lifting the news so that it becomes trending.

Talks about the two kingdoms have aired on various television media by inviting relevant experts, such as psychologists, sociologists, academics and others.

Observers present their arguments by concluding this phenomenon as dissatisfaction with the social, political, and economic conditions in their environment so as to create an ideal world that is aspired and considered utopian, to the conclusion of indications of megalomania in the individual characters.

This phenomenon is reminiscent of Raymon William's view of the outline of residual culture characteristics, namely culture that includes elements of the past that are still accepted, but their placement in contemporary culture is very diverse.

The elements related to the kingdom or empire which are actually part of the past government are explored and revived consciously, in short, this culture takes the values of the past, which are not part of the dominant culture, but continue to live and be used in current actions.

Escapism

The leaders and groups make a residual culture to look for ways that are escapist and tend to want to realize the order of life that is actually just a utopia.

Referring to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), escapism refers to the understanding of the will or tendency to avoid reality by seeking entertainment and peace in the imaginary world or fictional situation.

The escapism carried out by such groups is caused by a crisis of something that is assumed to be stable, coherent, apparently not obtained.

What is actually obtained is doubt and obscurity and to eliminate that obscurity, an identity is sought that can represent an intact, stable, and coherent presence.

Therefore the phenomenon of the Great Kingdom of the Universe and the Sunda Empire, which they created is considered to have a utopian tendency through arguments over the world and peacemakers.

There are various reasons for the emergence of such a community: a bad economic situation; inner satisfaction that is not obtained in a large society; or the charismatic influence of a leader who emerges as a savior or who merely seeks certain satisfaction or pleasure, according to Max Weber.

Economic difficulties and feelings of isolation make them unite against outside forces.

That is why they joined the Utopia community which promised a better life compared to the present situation, even though the reality was often contrary to the reality of an ideal society, sometimes it was too fantastic so difficult to realize it.

Why are they so easily influenced?

Why were they easily influenced by the invitation to become followers of the kingdom?

Disillusionment with this system fosters frustration in seeing social life, the economy does not provide good hope, so that when there is hope and the lure of a better life both economically and socially, they will automatically participate in the new system.

The lack of critical thinking caused by low levels of education is a factor in the participation of these people in such groups.

The views and beliefs of the emergence of Ratu Adil overruling facts, logic, and common sense make it easy for them to enter the group.

Kingdom and the Royal Archipelago

In reality, the kingdom and palace are not foreign to the people in Indonesia because in history, Indonesia is a kingdom in the archipelago.

In the last two years news about the kings and sultans in the archipelago had surfaced.

The beginning was when President Jokowi invited the kings and sultans at the Bogor Palace in January 2018. The event was attended by 88 kings and sultans from all over Indonesia.

Another event related to the king and sultan was the National Seminar on the Promotion of Culture at Pakuan University on December 17, 2019. Present at the event were 25 kings and sultans of the Indonesian archipelago, including Prince Raja Barik Barlian (Kingdom of Djipang) who had a viral issue.



Kirab budaya Keraton Jipang (Dokumen Yayasan Keraton Jipang)

In the case of the Great Keraton Agung, it may be that the emergence of the new kingdom was inspired by the frequent occurrence of meetings of kings and sultans of the senusantara or even throughout Asia, so that there is hope that their existence will be recognized later.

The presence of this new kingdom is an effort to romanticize the life of the great and exclusive kingdom of the past.

In its history, the existence of kings and sultans, which still exists in this country of the Republic of Indonesia, is recognized because of historical traces that are empirical evidence.

Empirical evidence is of course an important aspect of science that cannot be ruled out, as is the history of the kingdom, requiring empirical evidence, traces, whether in the form of writings, inscriptions, oral traditions or historical heritage sites both objects and other objects can be traced by historians, humanists, archeologists and other related scientists, with certain methodologies so that they can prove their historical truth.

How do we respond to the emergence of social phenomena in the emergence of the new kingdom?

Critical Thinking

Education and critical thinking are needed to respond to social phenomena that arise around us.

In this case it is important to echo the historical and cultural literacy of the local population in each region in Indonesia.

Knowledge about the history of the archipelago, the history of the kingdom in Indonesia and local history is needed so that logical thinking can still be a grip as the foundation of community life.

Critical thinking will make us think more rationally and reasoned and based on facts, it is not easy to believe the words of others, so it is not easily fooled or cheated by others.

Through critical thinking we process information that is relevant or something that is impossible so that it can be concluded as something that is not true or contains elements of lies.

Critical thinking leads us to be more selective in processing information, and accustom ourselves to analyzing existing data and the information we obtain.

To get used to thinking critically, we need to associate all information received with valid and accountable data.

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