

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

“We live on a planet of war. The world has turned red, the smiles clouded the darkness underneath. So, we fight, at least to make it still worth living.”

To answer the research question mentioned in the first chapter, this research argues that the flourish of child sex tourism especially in Thailand is the indirect consequence of globalization. The expansion of tourism does not directly create the child sex tourism but it has opened up space for the growth of it. Thus, the significant global force has turned tourism in Thailand into a new dilemma. On the one hand, Thailand sees tourism as a great opportunity and continues to improve this sector. But on the other hand, it is undeniable that this expansion has created possibility for the CST to thrive. Therefore, it becomes a phenomenon with strong and easy economic profitability that makes it more difficult to stop.

Before the new Prostitution Prevention and Suppression Act (1996) was enacted, Thailand as the state, the local sex market, and the society acknowledged the CST as it was deeply rooted in the history. Thailand promoted its CST as part of the goal to develop its tourism industry, the sex industry provided it, and the society saw it as a common thing. After the new prostitution law was enacted, Thailand as the nation got the pressure to eradicate CST but it is difficult since the society still tolerate the action and the sex industry is being highly influenced by the global forces brought by the globalization. Into the shady 21st century of the child sex tourism in Thailand shows that CST has become one of the most profitable

segments in the tourism industry and at the same time it is hidden under the shadow of globalization. When the place is available, prostitution in the country is still tolerated, without strict laws, as if it still provides room for CST to develop. Coupled with the inconsistency of the state in enforcing the relevant laws, CST in Thailand is the hidden secret behind global travel and tourism.

This research is not only focussing on the enforcement of the laws but this research also suggests that the forces brought by globalization have reshaped the local context. The global force in the form of tourism has impacted local industries in Thailand thus facilitated the globalized child sex tourism in the country. Especially in Thailand, there is a high probability that the local institutions will increasingly privilege the economic benefits associated with tourism in order to ensure a niche in the global market. They will try to answer the demand from the international tourists for sexual purposes despite the law that has been enacted before. Hence, it shows the inconsistency of Thailand as the nation that supposed to be the parties who provide protection to their citizens, including children.

Either intentionally or as a by-product of global power, tourism growth is likely to increase the growth of tourist-oriented commercial sex. The child sex tourism in Thailand, and presumably in other different countries, is increasingly structured by global forces like tourism and migration, connecting sex works in different part of the world, and establish a more abstract globalized child sex tourism. Understanding the localized child sex tourism as a consequence of global forces and connection is important to respond to this global social problem.

Additionally, the researcher acknowledges the limitation of the global ethnography approach that has been outlined in this research. Global ethnography cannot let alone the historical context of the research. But interpreting about another culture is always risky. The ethnographic and historical context might not be thickly enough to understand the phenomenon of the child sex tourism in Thailand. Vice versa, globalization might not be the sole determinant factor in explaining the flourishing industry of globalized child sex tourism in the country. The pushing and pulling factors always complement one another in the end. Given this research focus, however, at some level, the researcher believes that this point of view has a greater impact and has its own advantages.

limited data and research that is not carried out on-site is also a challenge in completing this research. Therefore, the researcher recommends further research on this issue from another point of view. For instance, the study of the child sex tourists themselves and the motivation behind in doing such things. Not many studies on this, thus it is important to conduct more research that includes more practical and specific data collection in one particular area. Seeing the progress of this issue, specific study of the policies and its enforcement in Thailand regarding CSEC also will be necessary in the future.

This research is expected to be a reference for further research on similar issues, especially regarding children which is rarely discussed in IR studies. The highlight of this research also can be an additional reference for further research related with children's right or human rights in general. With the struggles to afloat the global tides, this research can be relevant for non-state or other state actors that

face the similar issue particularly to build new frameworks in order to eliminate the CSEC and not only focus on generates more income within the country.

This research contends that the significant global forces and connection shaping a more globalized child sex tourism caused contemporary growth of CST in Thailand. By examining the global force and connection, this research hopes to shift attention from individual prostitutes as a social problem to child sex tourism as a product of globalization. Although this research argues that the global power affected Thailand, this research also shows that it will be affected differently depending on its position in the global economic order as well as their unique characteristics including its local infrastructures and cultural histories. In spite of that, in the end, this research wants to refer to what Henry Thomas Buckle once said, “*society prepares the crime, the criminal commits it.*”

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