

CHAPTER 4

Conclusion

The effects of Chinese diaspora to Indonesian economic growth are summed up into three things: how they advocate better business environment, enhance infrastructure, and helps facilitate international and regional trade through their networking system. They also shaped a few mishaps in the economy as the government grew more dependent on them such as the excessive loans that created the credit crunch. However, overall the economy went to a right direction, and the vision of President Suharto was met as the export-oriented economy advances through time.

The Chinese diaspora truly stands out in the New Order Era when the new economic plans and the government's sovereignty start to settle. They managed to enhance the trade, and the GDP growth from their economic aptitude with the government's help and friendship. In a way they also supported the crisis. Without their financial market there might not be a credit crunch. Without their capital, expertise, and technology, Suharto would not want to be friends with and the riots will probably not happen. Without the Dutch there might be any hatred to the Chinese people nor there be high volumes of violence. Through the theory of migration systems, the economic equilibrium that migrants opt for is present in the case with the Chinese diaspora. The more advanced the society is, the more economic growth they can bring to the society, as what modernization theory mentioned.

The recognition should still mostly belong to the Chinese diaspora and their business in Indonesia, which brings back the idea of those misconceptions in the beginning of this research. Are the Chinese people not really in control of the economy? Only some is influential so we cannot just congratulate the whole group right? There is a possibility in that. What is true is that 1% of the Chinese diaspora population are truly influential and probably befriended the president. The 99% of the rest of the Chinese diaspora people who were the middle class might as well not be friends with the presidents or have their faces printed in magazines, but they made their front cover when they brought out \$1 billion in capital flight that brought the crisis to an even rapid dive. Still, the trust campaigns by President Suharto's predecessors proved that the Chinese diaspora population in Indonesia mattered a lot, not just to bring the 1% of the wealthiest and influential back to Indonesia.

About the amount of economic share, the Chinese diaspora being insignificant, with only 3% of the population, 30% does sound significant. Not to mention how the 3% was constantly facing social and political ostracism and with 30% of economic share, they managed to hold around 75% of the country's wealth. These are not misconceptions, simply an act of not wanting to acknowledge the minority group which is much expected for further research.

The contribution of the Chinese diaspora to Indonesia's economic development while overlooking the social, political, and economical challenges in Indonesia should justify in only finding empirical facts about it, but to serve as prove on what they did and how they did it. That might be just the best acknowledgement and recognition rather than just mentioning numbers or proving

the numbers wrong. The movement of one particular ethnic group should open doors for possible research in more types of ethnic group with more working situation variables. This research hopefully sparks further research on how migrants and diaspora did not just involve labors from third world countries to a developed country and then eventually have enough money to open their own businesses in their origin country.

The destination country should also be more open to other kinds of economy, not only the expected developed countries whose racism is caused by the social sin the migrants did but also mentioning the types of leadership and how the country perceives the diaspora. This research describes the relations that the Chinese diaspora had with not only themselves and the locals, but with the government as well. They crossed micro to mezzo levels and their relations truly shape the way a country's political economy is, and even the social perspectives. These people, facing social and political ostracisms, can be friends with the President, and have their own economic empire, even to the extent of building their host country's economic development.

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