



Trade Constellation of Ethnic Groups of Bumiputera, Arab, Chinese, India, and European in Palembang City of 1945–1950

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Abstract. This study examines the trade constellation of ethnic groups (Bumi-putera, Arab, Chinese, India and European) in Palembang City from 1945–1950. Several studies on the revolutionary period in the city of Palembang until now still focus on the events of the “War” at that time. Many other exciting themes, such as day-to-day trade economics, have not been studied specifically. This study intends to show how the daily trading conditions carried out by various ethnic groups amid the upheavals of 1945–1950 in Palembang were made by changing the 1945 regime, The Lima Hari Lima Malam War from 1st to 5th January 1947, and the position of Palembang as the capital of the state of South Sumatra from 1948 to 1950 as the main background to express it. Using the historical method to analyze various sources found, the study’s results show that the regime change in 1945 caused a shift in the trade orientation of different ethnic groups that no longer applied social class. In addition, the Dutch control over the city of Palembang after winning the Lima Hari Lima Malam War from 1st to 5th January 1947 and strengthened by the implementation of the federal system by making Palembang the capital of the State of South Sumatra 1948–1950 caused a change in trading patterns due to the Dutch conducting a blockade in Musi River and control over several vital infrastructures such as the Port of Palembang which affects the distribution of various trading commodities.

Keywords: Ethnic Groups · Palembang · Revolution · Trade

1 Introduction

Palembang city is known as a trading city. Through river and sea routes, the city is an essential chain between the interior of South Sumatra and the trade network in the South China Sea. As a necessary chain in regional trade activities, Palembang has always been the center of the struggle for political power, where political power affects trading activities. The political regimes in Palembang took turns and influenced the social structure and trade in the city. In the 20th century, a systematic and prolonged change of political rules befell Palembang City in the 1940s, namely the Japanese occupation (1942–1945) and the early political upheaval of independence (1945–1950).

The existing narrative regarding studies on the city of Palembang has placed the position of the town of Palembang as a trading city [1]. During the reign of Sultan Abdurrahman (1662–1706), Islam became the state religion replacing old religious position (Buddha). This causes the Arab ethnic to get a “special” place compared to the Chinese and others ethnic. This is due to the similarity of “religion” adopted. This thing caused shared “religion”. Several ethnic Arab descendants who became scholars entered the circle of Sultanate power, for example by becoming advisors to the sultan [2].

Proximity of Arab ethnicity with sultanate impact the efforts of ethnic Arabs. Even in the century XIX, ethnic Arabs – together with ethnic Indian and Foreign East other dominated trading textile, ownership of boat until company wood [3]. Most the shops that located at 16 Ilir Market was built and owned by Sheikh Shehab, descendants of Arab ethnicity. He owns a company in the building sector named aannemersfamilie [4].

Trading from Arab ethnicity experienced a setback when the Dutch colonial no allowed Arab merchants to trade to the inland area (rural) of Palembang. However, some effort owned by Arab ethnicity remains enduring like *Firm Assegaf* and *Firm Alimoenar*. On the other hand, at this time group ethnic Chinese more benefited on treatment colonial, because ethnic Chinese can trade until entering the Palembang countryside. As a result, trades carried out by parties in China is also increasing. They shape share trade, such as *Siang Loen Tjoen* and *Han Li*. The most developed trade in colonialism is trade and business owned by ethnicity Europe. For example: *Borsumij*, *Indrustreele Mij Palembang*, *Molukse Handelsvenootschap*, *Jambi Mij*, *Geo Wehrij*, *Ben Meijer*, *Internatio*, *Happenstedt*, *Schnitzler*, *Jacobson van den Berg*, *Borneo Compagnie*, *Escompto*, *Hogemijer*, *Posma en Co*, *N.V. Tichelwerkers Palembang* and *Nederlandsch Indisch Handelsbank* [3].

Ethnic Europe is the most dominant ethnic trade at the beginning twentieth century, because they are the predominant ethnic Palembang area at the time that, start from the government, source Power Nature (SDA), up to the existing infrastructure. Meanwhile, the Ethnic Bumiputera as an ethnic group that was colonized in their own land has limited space to form an organized trade like other ethnic groups. Most of the Bumiputera people still use the traditional trade that is not as well organized as the Europeans, Chinese and Arabs. Population of ethnic Bumiputera who during the Srivijaya and Palembang Darussalam Sultanate were able to trade and build connection to various areas in the archipelago even abroad, during the colonial period like lost Thing it. This proves that when Palembang’s people were colonized, something was “robbed”, both of natural resources and the independence of the people.

Besides that, state Ethnic Bumiputera more down when colonial discriminate each group ethnicity with form villages based on ethnic groups (such as Arab Village, Chinese Village, Bumiputera Village). Not only that, colonial also enforced stratification social. Dutch East Indies society is divided Becomes several social-class. The first strata (upper class) group is occupied by Europeans, the second strata group is occupied by Foreign Easterners such as Chinese, Arabs, and other Asian nations, the lowest group is occupied by most of Bumiputera’s Ethnic group [5]. Based on studies Helen Susanti field on February 26, 2022 in Palembang (The field study in question is to visit directly to the location of villages of various ethnic groups in Palembang and then integrate the results of the field study into notes or writings) that until now, based on ethnicity can be found,

for example Al-Munawar Village (Arab), Assegaf Village (Arab), Kuto Village (Arab), Kapiten Village (China), Palembang Village and India Village (in the Kertapati area).

However, the existing historiography has not shown how and whether the city of Palembang, known as a trading center, can survive in daily trading activities with ethnic groups as trading actors during the war of independence. With this line of thought, this research is intended to fill the historiographical void of daily trading activities in the city of Palembang by looking at ethnic groups as traders from 1945 to 1950.

Three factors become the main *background* to explain how the constellation of ethnic groups trade in Palembang during the revolution, namely: *First*, the change in the government regime from the colonial era to the Indonesian independence period in 1945 which caused Palembang to experience a difference of government under the Republic of Indonesia. *Second*, *The Lima Hari Lima Malam War from 1st to 5th January 1947* took place, because the Republic of Indonesia lost, then Palembang was finally controlled by the Dutch. *Third*, the establishment of the State of South Sumatra with Palembang as the capital in 1948–1950 caused Palembang to be in the political vortex of the Netherlands and the Republic of Indonesia.

The years 1945 to 1950 were a period of revolution in the context of trade in the city of Palembang. Although the revolutionary war in Palembang City occurred on January 1–5 1947, in the context of trade, the trade revolution in Palembang City that involving traders from various ethnic groups has occurred since 1945 when there was a change in the ruling power that controlled Palembang City. The year 1945 became the initial momentum to see how the changes in the trade constellation in the city of Palembang after the colonization by the Dutch and Japanese. While 1950 was taken as the limitation of the research year with the consideration that in 1950, precisely on March 18, 1950 the State of South Sumatra was abolished after Abdul Malik handed over the State of South Sumatra to the Governor of South Sumatra, namely M. Isa as the government of the Republic of Indonesia in Palembang.

2 Methods and Sources

This research applies the historical method. The steps include selecting research topics, collecting research sources, verification (historical criticism, source validity), interpretation: analysis and synthesis and the last is historical writing [6].

The selection of research topics is based on topics that have not been discussed by other researchers. Source verification is done by comparing the contents of one source with another, checking the number of years of publication, the type of paper used and the language used. Interpretation is done by analyzing and synthesizing on various sources that have been criticized. History writing is done after the interpretation process is completed.

Research sources are accessed from collections belonging to various agencies, private property, property of the resource person, and so on. The researcher (Helen Susanti) searched the city of Palembang and its surroundings, namely the South Sumatra Regional Library, the South Sumatra Provincial Archives Service, the Archives Agency, the Palembang City Library and Documentation, the Al-Wasthiyyah Library, the Kodam Library, the BI Library and the Central Library and FKIP Sriwijaya University. Then the research

was carried out in Yogyakarta, the data search was carried out in the Central Library and the Library of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Gadjah Mada University by searching for sources of books and research results (Thesis, Dissertation) with related titles and the Yogyakarta Regional Library. After that, the authors searched for data in the Jakarta area and its surroundings, such as ANRI (National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia), PERPUSNAS (National Library of Indonesia), KITLV Leiden Jakarta Library and so on.

The author also uses *online platforms* to search for primary and secondary sources, including: www.anri.go.id, www.perpusnas.go.id, delpher.nl, nationaalarchief.nl, trove.nla.gov.au, digitalcollections.universiteitleiden.nl, eap.bl.uk, seadelt.net, repository.monash.edu, collections.library.cornell.edu, brill.com, ecommons.cornell.edu, eresources.nlb.gov.sg, cia.gov, etc.

In addition to written sources in the form of archives, books, newspapers and journals, the author also uses interview sources by conducting interviews with important figures who know the development of trade in Palembang and also know the atmosphere during the revolution in Palembang, such as historians, traders, traders veterans, people who witnessed the war and felt the impact of the process in Palembang. However, those who did not witness firsthand but knew of the events, would still be interviewed. This is because it does not mean that those who did not notice the revolution period cannot be used as informants, because there could be an oral tradition that they built regarding the revolutionary period in Palembang [7].

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 War Revolution and Change Composition Trading by Group Ethnic

Entering the early period of independence, when the regime changed to the Republic of Indonesia, the government Republic of Indonesia no discriminate various group ethnicity to in class social specific like the colonial Belanda. Republic of Indonesia's government focuses more on what can maintain sovereignty and improve the Indonesian economy, including in the Palembang area. In trade-economy, various ethnicity get same opportunity to do trade and or make an effort. Only, particular ethnicity Europe, the steps that during the colonial period controlled by the colonial, trying for controlled by Republic of Indonesia. This thing conducted as "freedom society " take extended - lasting rights This was "usurped" by the invaders. In the early days of independence, ethnic peranakan not yet called Indonesian citizen because based on Law No. 3 of 1946, the peranakan were given the opportunity to choose Becomes Indonesian Citizen or not calculated one year after Law no. 3 of 1946 ratified. If in time one year Peranakan ethnicity does not convey the objection, then by automatic they Becomes Indonesian citizen [8].

Condition merchants needed only one by the Government Republic of Indonesia, namely "Honest Traders". Every merchants/traders who can act honestly so entitled for guarantee the same security and certainty in doing trade, both originating from Ethnic Bumiputera (Indonesia), Chinese, Arabic, and others. The Indonesian government is very need honest merchants for repair economy nation [9].

To make it easy to understand trade and trade patterns carried out by the group ethnicity in Palembang in the middle war and blockade, then need it is known population

Table 1. Palembang Population Composition Based on Ethnicity Until the early 1950s.

No.	Nationality/Ethnicity	Total population
1	Indonesian citizen (Generally the Bumiputera people during the colonial period)	241.039
2	Chinese	37,737
3	Dutch	2.030
4	India	860
5	Arab	3.629
6	America	30
7	Japan	9
8	Germany	1
9	Belgium	3
10	Other Western Countries	10
	Amount	285,348

Source: R.M. Akib, *Kota Palembang 1272 Tahun (684–1956) dan 50 Tahun Kotapraja (Haminte) Palembang*, (Palembang: Rhama Publishing House, 1956), 163.

data in Palembang based on group ethnicity. Palembang population data based on group ethnicity beginning registered 1950s officially registered could seen in Table 1. Data from the early 1950s can provide an overview of the number of ethnic groups in Palembang in previous years and the years that were closest to the revolution.

Is known from Table 1 that there is a number of group ethnic groups who inhabit the Palembang area until beginning 1950 's. Group dominating ethnicity is Ethnic Bumiputera (which automatic Becomes Indonesian citizen when Indonesia was independent) with amount reached 241.039 people, followed by with ethnicity comer biggest is ethnicity Chinese who got 37.737 people, next there is Arabs 3.639 people, Dutch 2.030 people, India 860 people, America 30 people, Japan 9 people, Belgium 3 people, Germany 1 people, and Other Western Countries 10 people. Bumiputera's ethnic group, Chinese, Arabs, Indians and Dutch are the ethnic groups that are the focus of research because the 5 ethnic groups are the ethnic groups with the largest population inhabiting Palembang during the revolutionary period and played a significant role in the trade-economy in Palembang even before the era of globalization revolution.

The state of trade in Palembang in 1946 can be seen from the excerpt from Mr. Hermani which was published in the newspaper *Republik* on December 17, 1946, with the title "*Di Sekitar Penindjauan Soematra.*" Following [10].

"Kita naik di Palembang alangkah terkedjoetnja kita melihat di hadapan Pasar 16 Ilir masih penoeh otobis2, oplet dan taxi jang masih menoenggoe2 moeatan berte-riak mentjari orang. Kita masoek poela ke dalam Pasar. Apa jang kita lihat, adalah soenggoeh tjoekoep oentoek memboeat kita terjengang2. Segala matjam barang ada diperdjoelkan orang disana. Pakaian dril hidjau (pakaian tentara Inggris Gurka) bertimboen, disamping segala matjam kain textiel loear negeri. Segala

toko2 Tionghoa penoeh dengan barang2 loear negeri (banjak sekali lux artikelen) jang memboeat kita loepa bahwa negeri kita ini pernah ditimpa peperangan. Di pelaboehannya berlaboeh berpoeloeh2 kapal dengan berbagai2 oekoeran hiroek pikoek dengan jang membongkar dan jang memoeat getah jang akan diangoet ke Singapoera. Alangkah ramainja. Sewaktoe kita tiba di Djakarta, ternjata jang di kota Djakarta sendiripoen tidak sebanjak barang jang ada di Palembang.”

The quote above is a travel report of Mr. Hermani, head of the central government entourage who visited Palembang in 1946. Based on this quote, trade in Palembang in 1946 was very busy. Autobuses, oplets and taxis line the roadside waiting for passengers from 16 Ilir Market and the surrounding area. Various types of goods are traded at 16 Ilir Market. For example, different types of *textile* fabrics and a green drill. Ethnic Chinese-owned shops sell *lux* articles (luxury goods). The situation at the port of Palembang is also busy loading and unloading export-import goods. Dozens of ships of various sizes were busy transporting and unloading the latex to be transported to Singapore. It was so crowded and the number of goods traded in Palembang made Mr. Hermani claimed that the merchandise in Palembang was even more significant than the merchandise in Jakarta [11].

However, the trade-economy in Palembang began to shaken when on December 22, 1946, the Dutch army began to do movements military for control of Palembang [12]. The peak occur when Palembang succeeded controlled by the Dutch after lost in *Lima Hari Lima Malam War* that required TRI and the army troops other back off as far as 20 km from Palembang. The retreat of TRI troops and other Laskar Perjuangan (Warriors of Struggle) as far as 20 km resulted from the ceasefire decision between the Republicans and the Netherlands [13].

During *Lima Hari Lima Malam War*, a conflict arose between the Laskar Pejuang Merdeka Republik Indonesia and the ethnic Chinese (most of whom were traders). The competition was related to their suspicion that the ethnic Chinese were on the side of the Dutch. This suspicion arose related to the proximity of the Chinese ethnic to the Dutch during colonialism. This suspicion was also based on “special signs” during the war, in the form of shots fired from ethnic Chinese houses. After the photos were heard, the Dutch dropped mortars and so on. As a result, the Laskar Perjuangan made arrests of several ethnic Chinese. However, after the war was over, they were released [13].

Based on information from M. Isa as the Governor of South Sumatra, the victims of the ethnic Chinese in the *Lima Hari Lima Malam War* were 219 people with severe and minor injuries, 106 people died and 140 people were declared missing. The figures for the deaths of ethnic Chinese as a result of the *Lima Hari Lima Malam War* come from primary sources, namely the newspaper Repoeblik, published on January 25, 1947 [14].

However, the data presented by the historian Mestika Zed shows a different figure. By basing his argument on *VFI sources, 18 January 1947; cf. OBNIB, IX, p. 87 and Territoriale tv Troepem Commando, OTT, 20-3-47 t/m 27-3-47, p. 1 and Bijlage II, HKGS-NOI, GG 14/1947, p. 1, CAD, MvD, The Hague*. Mestika Zed mentions that approximately 2,050 Chinese died, 1000 were injured, 600 were missing, and 900 of their houses were destroyed during the war. About 50 shops belonging to the Indian ethnic group were also burnt down. Losses are expected to touch the number Str. \$1 million. Meanwhile the republican losses were estimated at Str. \$5 million [15].

The death of the ethnic Chinese, primarily traders in the Palembang area, received attention from other ethnic Chinese, especially the ethnic Chinese residing in Jakarta and Singapore [16]. Meanwhile, the victims of the war from the republican side were as many as 500 people died. About 1000 people were seriously and lightly injured. Most of the victims were civilians. They became victims of attacks by the Dutch from sea, land and air. Meanwhile, from the side of the army and the struggle agency, 30 people were victims [13].

However, what is interesting is the dispute that occurred between the Indonesian Independence Warriors and the ethnic Chinese, as if there was a “politics of fighting against each other” from the Dutch side. This is because the Dutch envoy who came to Singapore on January 20, 1947, said a lie to the newspapers that the Indonesian people caused the cause of the death of the ethnic Chinese. In fact, it was the Dutch who dropped mortars, bombs and others all over the city of Palembang and many Palembang people were victims. Two ships belonging to the ethnic Chinese “*Coombar Ship*” and “*Eng Guan Ship*” that sailed from Singapore to Palembang were also victims of Dutch bullets and bombs. Criticism of the Dutch for their actions against the Chinese in Indonesia was conveyed on January 20, 1947 by various agencies at the *Chinese Chamber of Commerce building*, Singapore. Around 200 people expressed objections to the actions taken by the Dutch in Palembang. The meeting decided to form a committee with the name “Badan Protector of Overseas Chinese Nation” consisting of 21 members representing 21 trade, labor, social and other associations. The inaugural trial was held on January 24, 1947 at the *Chinese Chamber of Commerce building* to determine the attitude towards the Netherlands, Indonesia and UNO [17].

After *Lima Hari Lima Malam War*, the people of Palembang, consisting of various ethnicities, entered a “new chapter” in carrying out the trade-economy. Because, the Dutch has controlled Palembang. If in 1946 trade in Palembang went smoothly, then after *Lima Hari Lima Malam War*, transaction could not run as before, especially in the export-import sector. The reason was that the Dutch imposed an economic blockade on the waters of the Musi River. The embargo carried out by the Dutch was related to their strategy to isolate Indonesia (including Palembang) so that it could not connect with the outside world and experienced a slump in the economic and military fields.

In fact, the Dutch started the blockade in November 1945. At this time, imported goods such as textiles, medicines, food, electronic equipment and military equipment were difficult to enter the territory of the Republic. In addition, the export of various Natural Resources is also tricky. The Dutch blockade was attempted to be penetrated by AK Gani, who at that time served as resident, young governor of South Sumatra, coordinator and organizer of TKR, by smuggling raw materials, such as rubber, coffee, koprah, tin and others to Singapore and Penang which at that time when it was controlled by the British. Smuggling was carried out throughout Sumatra, from Lampung to Aceh with Palembang as its center [18].

When Gani was appointed Minister of Prosperity (in the Sjahrir III Cabinet from October 1946 to June 1947), smuggling extended to the north coast of Java. He once said:

"Biar 15 diantara 20 kapal yang ditangkap, lima kapal lolos sudah cukup (Although 15 out of 20 captured ships, five ships not captured is enough)" [19].

The quote above illustrates the optimism of the Republic of Indonesia in upholding sovereignty and maintaining the economy during the revolutionary period. Therefore, even though there were so many pictures of ships that the Dutch could capture than those that escaped the Blockade imposed by the Dutch, the Republicans were not afraid and continued to smuggle to obtain supplies of weapons and ammunition from the sale of Natural Resources to Singapore to deal with expansion. Dutch.

In mid-1948, the blockade carried out by the Dutch succeeded in paralyzing the trade of the Republic of Indonesia (including Palembang in it). Based on information from Mohamad Saad, the leader of the Perdaplin (Indonesian Merchant and Shipping Association), all ships that will enter Indonesian territory must be registered and get permission from the Netherlands to dock to ports in the part of the Republic. The ships confiscated by the Dutch would be taken to the ports of the Republic which had been controlled by the Dutch (including the Port of Boom Baru Palembang, which at that time was influenced by the Dutch). The entire cargo of the ship is unloaded and the captain of the vessel is sentenced to imprisonment for 15 days to 1 month and/or a fine. Dutch warships heavily guarded the port. Of course this greatly complicates the trade process in the territory of the Republic [20].

Losses due to the Dutch blockade, for example, as explained by Mr. Jusuf Wibisono, the leader of BTC (*Banking and Trading Corporation*), the most significant loss of BTC was lk. 4 million US dollars when the goods transported by the Martin Behrmann ship totaling 8000 tons were confiscated by the Dutch. Furthermore, information from Mr. Jusuf Wibisono, said that the goods brought by private traders seized by the Dutch were not *smokkelhandel* (illegal trade), because the goods had a license issued by the Ministry of Welfare [20]. The Dutch also confiscated several merchant ships belonging to ethnic Chinese, one of which was the Bintang 32 Ship belonging to the ethnic Chinese [21].

Though Palembang situation is getting better turbulent consequence Dutch war and blockade, trade daily permanent work on for walk especially by the people of Palembang alone. That thing conducted because Public need materials food for consumed and various necessities related to everyday life. That thing reinforced by the statement Interview together with one of the veterans of the Lima Hari Lima Malam War, Ruslan Raden Karta Manggala (2022), that trading had time stop temporary consequence war, however *the day-to-day trade economics* in the market back walk when war has enough under control several day after and which focuses on the war is the military of Republic of Indonesia with the Dutch military, not civilians. Even so, of course the Palembang civilians supported the independence of the Republic of Indonesia. It's just that those who focus more on war strategies and so on related to state sovereignty are the TRI with their commanders and troops [22].

The Information of interview from Ruslan's stated that shortly after Lima Hari Lima Malam war, the activity of trading in the current market is return. This is reinforced by Fig. 1, which depicts trade activities that are running again in one of the markets in Palembang, which was taken on January 25, 1947. This means that the picture was taken 20 days after the Five Days and Five Nights War events. This picture is one proof that trading in the market was resumed shortly after the war. This could happen because people need various needs (especially food) to survive and most of these needs can be found in the market.

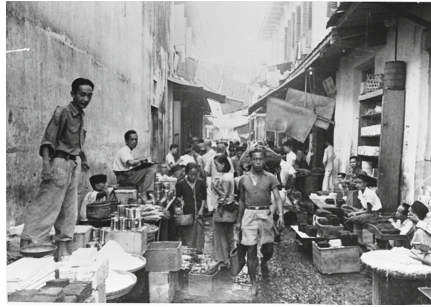


Fig. 1. One of the markets in Palembang, January 25, 1947. **Source:** Anefo photo collection. “Pasarstraatje in Palembang.” *Nationaalarchief.nl*.

Table 2. Palembang Export Commodities, 1948 - September 1949 (in tons)

No.	Commodity Type	Total Exports per year 1948	Total Exports January-September 1949
1.	Rubber:	57,570	46,549
	- Slab	1551	17,150
	- <i>Smoked Sheets (Ribbed Smoked Sheets)</i>	8622	853
	- <i>Blank</i>		
2.	Coal	359,899	265.507
3.	Oil	250,000	-*
	- SVPM	160,000	-
	- BPM		

Source: *Het Nieuwsblad voor Sumatra, February 18, 1949. “Zuid-Sumatra in 1948.”* and Mestika Zed. 2003. *Political Brokerage and the Palembang Revolution 1900–1950.* Jakarta: Pustaka LP3ES Indonesia, member of IKAPI. Hlm. 174.

Based on a report from the press service of the Ministry of Economy, Agriculture and Fisheries, Palembang’s economy began to rise again in 1948, where in early 1948 the Palembang economy experienced rapid progress. In the middle of 1948, the increase occurred in almost all sectors and is likely to continue to increase throughout the end of 1948 [23].

The increase in production occurred due to the participation of the uluan (rural) areas which became part of the State of South Sumatra at the end of 1948 which became suppliers of various Natural Resources. 1175 licenses for barter transactions were also issued with a value of Str \$5.1 million hkg \$0.2 million; £863 and Ned. f10,990.- it aims to increase trade. South Sumatra’s most crucial economic support is in the oil and rubber sector. In addition, there is also coal. Various natural products are exported through Palembang as the capital of the State of South Sumatra [24].

-* not yet known.

Based on Table 2, the total amount of rubber exports per year 1948 was 67.743 tons (consisting of 57.570 tons of Slab, 1551 tons of *Smoked Sheets*, and 8622 tons of *Blanked*), 359.899 tons of coal, and 410.000 tons of oil. Meanwhile, total rubber exports in January-September 1949 amounted to 64.552 tons (consisting of 46.549 tons of Slab, 17.150 tons of *Smoked Sheets* and 853 tons of *Blanked*) and 265.507 tons of coal. However, the amount of oil exports is not yet known. Natural resources in the form of rubber, coal and oil are the mainstay of Palembang's exports. These three commodities also made Palembang a target area for Dutch rule during the revolution.

Meanwhile, several industrial sectors in 1948 experienced an increase in production, although some experienced a decline. 5 ice cream factories produce 710 tons per month, 16 soy sauce factories can make an average of 125.000 L per month and 16 lemonade factories produce 84.000 bottles. Meanwhile, soap production has decreased due to a lack of raw materials. The laundry soap production in July was 130 tons, November 101 tons, and December 69 tons. Furthermore, machine shops and 6 printing houses work at total capacity processing orders from oil companies, but lack the human resources to do them [24].

3.2 Trading Patterns and Constellations Trade Group Ethnic Revolution Period

The Palembang area as the capital of South Sumatra Province is surrounded by rural areas and/or urban districts that have various natural resources (ranging from vegetables, rubber, palm oil, to mining). Trading different Source Power Natural the empties into Palembang, because Palembang is a capital province and center trade in South Sumatra. This is what strengthens Palembang's position as city trade.

3.2.1 Trade Patterns in Palembang during the Revolution

Needs staple in Palembang, especially rice, come from from area uluan (rural). Plant like rice, corn, sweet potato, sesame, cassava, and various type nuts and vegetables in origin from rural areas of South Sumatra. Various type results agriculture the support trading in the market, both markets that are in the region, village as well as markets in the region city [25]. It means Beside import, trade needs everyday life in Palembang is supported by various results earth from areas rural or Uluan South Sumatra.

After the change regime in 1945, when Indonesia was independent from the colonization and became a sovereign country, goods trade in Palembang still supplied from rural areas (Uluan) South Sumatra. Besides that, items are also filled from results export-import. However, due to existence war in 1947, distribution goods from area Uluan no could walk fluent like before. This thing because battle no only occurred in the city of Palembang, but also other regions Palembang Uluan. Because the Netherlands is not only want to dominate the city of Palembang, but also the regions Uluan South Sumatra is rich in Source Power nature. This thing proven with incessantly attack Netherlands continued on Aggression Military I that takes place on the moon June 1947 and Aggression Military II at the end 1948 and early 1949 in the area uluan South Sumatra [26].

The Dutch military is also trying prevent the farmers give help food on the TRI side. Suppose any the farmer who was caught provide support on TRI. In that case, the KNIL

will control the farmer 's field that and if has harvest, then results the harvest will taken by Dutch military [26]. The trading pattern in Palembang can be seen in Fig. 2.

Based on Fig. 2, it can be concluded that the goods from Natural Resources traded by various ethnic groups in Palembang mostly come from the uluan (rural) area of Palembang and other necessities are imported (mainly from Singapore). Merchandise from uluan was brought in by middlemen, while imported goods were obtained from traders in Palembang who cooperated with the military. The produce from uluan did not stop only in Palembang, but also tried to be exported secretly so as not to be confiscated by the Dutch. Exports carried out in secret were intensively carried out after the Five Days and Five Nights War, when the Dutch had controlled Palembang. Meanwhile, exports were also carried out by the Dutch for the benefit of the Dutch economy itself.

3.2.2 Constellation Trading Group Ethnic Arab, Indian, Chinese, European and Bumiputera

Squirm effort trading group ethnicity permanent walk in the middle war and blockade. The business of the merchants in Palembang in the revolutionary period enough various, for example in the field of textiles, rubber, ice block processing, businesses grocery, vegetables and various effort other. Type ownership The businesses owned by traders in Palembang are also diverse kind, start from request personal until a business entity that has bodily law such as NV, PD and Fa. Business entities that have bodily law more for trading in scale big, export and import. At the moment this several business and or shops that were open during the revolution, some still operating (eg. PT Alwi Assegaf, PT Hok Tong, and PT Sunan Rubber). However, some again already no work until made building reserve culture (eg. N.V. Jacobson Van Den Berg), some are used as building multipurpose (eg. Printing Rambang) and some big no could found existence, especially shops grocery [27].

Based on the narrative of Umar Smith (2022), one of the staff of PT Alwi Assegaf who also comes from Arab ethnicity, most of the large-scale businesses operated by various ethnic groups during the revolution were businesses that had been established long before the independence of the Republic of Indonesia. One of them is PT. Alwi Assegaf (See Fig. 4.2). PT which was originally named N.V. Juliana, operating since the Dutch colonial period even still exists today. PT. Alwi Assegaf has been established since 1929, was founded by an ethnic Arab descendant from Hadhramaut, namely Habib Alwi bin Syech Assegaf [28].

During 1945–1950, this factory also contributed to the supply of Block Ice for fishermen, restaurants, and household consumption in Palembang and its surroundings. Ice Block utilized as preservative results river in the form of fish, shrimp, and so on. Ice Block could make results catch endure longer. Even though it was temporarily stopped due to the war during Lima Hari Lima Malam War, this factory still continued its production when the conditions were quite conducive. Ice Block enough interested as preservative at that time because cupboard cooler (such as refrigerator) not yet owned Public by wide. Besides ice block supplier, factory Alwi Assegaf also supplies clean water taken from the Musi River used for Fulfill needs Public around (mainly village near the factory). The economy among Palembang people still walk though situation Among Government

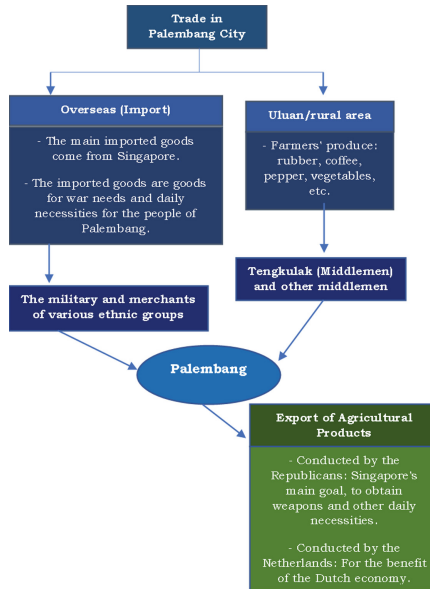


Fig. 2. Trade Patterns in Palembang City 1945–1950. **Source:** Fig. 1 created by Helen Susanti based on data from various sources, namely: Soeara Merdeka, Nopember 13, 1946, “Penerangan pada bangsa Arab, India dan Tionghoa.” Merdeka, July 12, 1948, “Blokade lumpuhkan perdagangan Republik.” Penghela Rakjat, March 3, 1947, “Import–Export Bersama”, Yeo W. 2013. “Palembang in the 1950s: The Making and Unmaking of a Region.” (Doctoral dissertation). University of Washington, 35–39 and Ruben Nalenan & Iskandar Gani. 2004. *Dr. A.K. Gani: Pejuang Berwawasan Sipil and Militer*. Jakarta: Yayasan Indonesianologi, 95–96.



Fig. 3. PT Alwi. Office Building and Factory Assegaf built in 1929, 1932, 1974 and 1991. **Source:** Personal Documents of Helen Susanti (Photo taken on Saturday, 19 February 2022).

of The Republic of Indonesia and the Netherlands are turbulent. It’s just that, of course, the wheels of the economy are not running like they were before the war.

As for pictures building office and factory owned by PT Alwi Assegaf which was built in 1929, 1932, 1974 and 1991 can be seen in Fig. 3 (picture taken on 19 February 2022).

Based on description Interview a veteran of the Five Days and Five Nights War, namely Mr. Ruslan Raden Karta Manggala (RKM) on January 20, 2022, In addition



Fig. 4. Restaurant Martabak HAR with a banner that reads 7–7–1947. **Source:** Personal Document of Helen Susanti (Picture taken on Wednesday, 11 May 2022).

to ownership PT Alwi. Factory Assegaf, descendants Arab ethnicity in Palembang also contributed for trading day-to-day in traditional markets. Generally, traders descendants ethnic Arabs act as seller cloth, oil fragrance and so on. This thing not free from history those in the past who were engaged in the trade [22].

Meanwhile, some ethnic Indians are engaged in the food sector. For example, by selling martabak HAR, the martabak was sold for the first time by a descendant of Indian ethnicity, Haji Abdul Rozak (His name was shortened to HAR, this is where the name martabak HAR was taken). Martabak HAR sauce itself has a special sauce like Indian curry sauce, although there are some things that are adapted to the tongue of the Palembang people. Uniquely, Haji Abdul Rozak order ice cubes from PT Alwi Assegaf agar material food at the restaurant so you can endure longer [28]. One of restaurants Martabak HAR can seen in Fig. 4.

Based on picture 3 can is known information that restaurant Martabak HAR was founded the first time on 7 July 1947 according to with the date listed on the front banner the restaurant. Besides that, on the banner there is also image of Haji Abdul Rozak, founder Martabak HAR descendants Indian ethnicity. If the restaurant Martabak HAR is standing the first time on July 7, 1947, it means that this restaurant grew during the political-economic upheaval in Palembang after the Lima Hari Lima Malam War in January 1947 which indicated that the turmoil did not kill the trading business in the food sector.

Different case with Arab and Indian ethnicity, trade most prominent ethnicity Chinese is in the field export rubber. This thing no surprising, because since growing cultivation rubber outside Java Island in the 1920s, rubber becomes superior commodity for foreign exchange, even could produce almost from half Indonesian exports in the 1950s. Palembang is one of the rubber plantation bases that is quite calculated. Three firm China who became trader export rubber in Palembang in the 1920s was *Chie Sing Chan, Tan Kah Kee and Chin Seng Chan*. Two firm final based in Singapore. Then, in the 1930s, appeared other companies that dominate company rubber, that is *Hok Tong* [29].

Entering the revolutionary period, traders ethnicity Chinese involved coalition trading with the leaders political or military Bumiputera Republic of Indonesia for To do smuggling results earth (rubber, coffee, pepper, tea, etc.) exchanged with logistics and



Fig. 5. PT Sunan Rubber, Kertapati District, Palembang, 2022. **Source:** Personal Documents of Helen Susanti (Photo taken on Saturday, 19 February 2022).

needs war. Goods the brought cross Malacca Strait, mainly to Singapore. Beside that, factory like NV Hok Tong anyway operate during the revolution. At the moment, NV Hok Tong has become a PT and owns a number of branch companies in Palembang. Currently, PT Hok Tong supply rubber to the United States, Brazil, Ecuador, and Pakistan [30]. Beside that, Kian Guan company experienced setbacks, even her name no recorded in the names of the registered traders / entrepreneurs in Palembang until early 1950s [31].

At the end of the revolution there was also a new factory built by ethnic Chinese, namely NV Sunan Rubber Co Ltd. NV Sunan Rubber is engaged in the export rubber, based on Certificate establishment of NV Sunan Rubber Co Ltd. Recorded the first time in 1949. Based on results Interview together Sir Makmun, one of the staff of PT Sunan Rubber on February 18, 2022, NV Sunan Rubber played a role in export rubber. Export rubber the conducted via New Boom Harbor. Part of export conducted to Singapore, Europe, and America. Moment this has changed name become a PT Trading Company Sunan Rubber. The location has also been move, from Jalan Sekanak to Kertapati. Ownership share biggest owned by a descendants Chinese, part of it again owned by a American citizen [32]. Factory rubber owned by PT Sunan Rubber in the Kertapati area that enough large could be seen in Fig. 5.

Though trading biggest ethnicity The Chinese in Palembang are rubber, it does not mean they only trade rubber. Fast trading rubber in the 1920s in Palembang caused appearance traders intermediary from ethnicity Chinese who brought rubber from area uluan (rural) to Palembang city uses boat along the Musi River. It is also used by traders intermediary Chinese for sell needs tree daily like textiles and salt ke area uluan Palembang [29]. Trader intermediary continues in the time of revolution and shops trader Chinese many sell goods import luxury in the market, one of which is the 16 Ilir Market [33]. State shop owned by trader ethnicity Chinese in one of the markets in Palembang can be seen in Fig. 6.

This picture of Fig. 6 was taken in January 1947 at one of the markets in Palembang City. Figure 5 shows shop owned by ethnicity Chinese (assuming that based on the text above door shop that uses Letter *Chinese* (also known as Chinese characters)). Besides that, in front shop is also visible street vendor with various types of merchandise. The market atmosphere is visible enough busy and controlled.



Fig. 6. Store Overview Ethnic Chinese and Street Vendors in Palembang, January 1947. **Source:** “*Straatventers bij een hoekpand in de Chinese wijk van Palembang.*” nasionaalarchief.nl.

Based on letter news Merdeka, July 20, 1948 with title article “*Palembang Night Market.*” Ethnic China is also working on its activity business in the field of entertainment, for example held a night market in July 1948. Night market organized by association laborer Chinese “*Chinese Labor Union.*” Several stands at the night market used for restaurants and places gambling that uses buttons, lotteries, darts, and so on. Very minimal activity education like useful arts and so on for public wide. There are also more people standing outside the fence than people entering the night market. People who see night market show from outside wall can just medium group public to bottom that doesn’t want to spend money only for to the night market. For them, looking at the night market from outside the fence already more from enough [34].

Meanwhile, ethnic Europeans who already had an established trade organization tried to reinvest their influence in the trade-economic field of Palembang. Most of the European ethnic groups in Palembang during the revolution came from the Netherlands. After success occupied Palembang after Lima Hari Lima Malam War, they could dominate a number of infrastructure and industry. For example *N.V. Industriële Maatschappij “Palembang”*, the Dutch get a 10% dividend from industry that even profit reach 301,564 in 1948 [35]. In December 1949, they proposed that *NV Industriële Maatschappij “Palembang”* pays dividend by 17% for 1948 (5% in form cash and 12% in form shares), for 1947 by 10% in total cash [36]. The Dutch also received profit from foreclosure ships trade in water through blockade.

Besides that, the Dutch also profit from mastery on the Port of Palembang (known as with Boom Baru Harbor) and transportation train line. 2,276 ships with a capacity of 16.8 million tons stopped in Palembang in 1948. Of course thing that impact on income from duty excise duty reached NLG 32.4 million (January 1.8 million guilders, June 2.8 million guilders and in December 3.3 million guilders). Train The State Fire of South Sumatra transports more of 733,000 people from January until November 1948 also not escape becomes Dutch income. Company that give income more from f 8 million guilders. Amount passenger biggest transported in September as many as 96,823 people and smallest on the moon January 1948 that is as many as 46,127 people [37].

Next, thing interesting happened to the ethnicity Bumiputera. If during the colonial period Ethnic Bumiputera experience setback with “limited range of motion” as colonized nation, then during the revolution, the Bumiputera start to “rise” from slump that



Fig. 7. Industry home leaf roof craftsman nipah, Kenten Laut, 2019. **Source:** files Personal Helen Susanti (photo taken in 2019).



Fig. 8. Boat Kajang on the banks of the Musi River that uses a leaf roof Nipah, January 1947. **Source:** “*overzicht van een haven met uitkijktoren.*” Nationaalarchief.nl.

and try for take rights those who the invaders looted. Though the Bumiputera’s ethnic group do not yet have such an organized business like the Chinese who already have associations in several countries such as Singapore, the Indigenous people are still trying to grow and organize trade as a sign of revival after adversity.

Based on data obtained in Merdeka newspaper, 7 Nopember 1947, In 1946 the Republic organize export goods mine coal from Cape Enim, South Sumatra [38]. Furthermore, data from Merdeka newspaper, September 21, 1946 [39] and Yuarsa, 2014: 55–57 [40], After the 1947 Lima Hari Lima Malam (Five Days and Five Nights) War, organized trade in Palembang more focus on smuggling goods to Singapore, smuggling the conducted by organized by circle intellectual Bumiputera’s who work same with the merchants from Palembang.

Among Ethnic Bumiputera estimated active involved in manufacture and trade goods industry home based. As example Becomes leaf roofing nipah and craftsmen woven. Leaf roof nipah has used for a long time by the people of Palembang as the roof of houses, cages, or boat roofs awning. Industry a house that produces leaf roofs nipah still endure until moment this, like in the area Kertapati, there is also on the border of the city of Palembang, namely in the area of Kenten Sea (See Fig. 7). Temporary that, the use of leaf roofs nipah on the boat Awning could be seen in Fig. 8, where Boat Awnings that use a leaf roof nipah currently located on the banks of the Musi River and houses community on the banks of the Musi River in January 1947. This indicates that leaf nipah of course utilized Public as the roof of the boat Kajang [41].



Fig. 9. Medium KNIL soldiers buy banana and pineapple from trader ethnic Bumiputera, December 30, 1947. **Source:** “Palembang: Op 30 dec. Arriveerde te Palembang het ss. “ Sloterdijk “, met aan board de KL. Troepen, die het KNIL comments affloss. Aan de monding van de Moesi werden troepen en Basang door de lst. “ Albatross “ overgenomen. Eenmaal aan wal bestaat de eerste kennismaking met Indie uit de aankoop van bananen en ananas voor de nieuwkomers lang begeerde heerlijkheden.” nationalarchief.nl.

Temporary that, the industry also develops home like weaving cloth songket and production food typical Palembang like Pempek, Apem Banyu, Celimpungan, Mentu & Bugis, serta Dadar Jiwo & Kuipau has Becomes daily food of Palembang people. Usually various cake the peddled for morning breakfast or certain occasions, except pempek which is usually enjoyed all the time. Some Palembang specialties are made from fish as the main ingredient (such as pempek and celimpungan) because the Palembang area is surrounded by rivers that produce enough fish catch abundant. The catch will last longer if it is processed into various typical Palembang dishes that made from fish. If pempek and the others food made from main fish intended for food daily society, it's different with Maksuba and Delapan Jam cake, Engkak Ketan and so on at first for environment Sultanate of Palembang Darussalam [42]. However, after Sultanate mastered full by the Dutch in 1823 AD, These various cakes began to be produced for the people of Palembang in general, including during 1945–1950 [43].

Besides that, Ethnic Bumiputera also play a role in trading small scale, for example becomes street vendors (See Fig. 9).

Figure 9 shows trade transactions carried out between Dutch soldiers: KNIL and street vendors from ethnic Bumiputera. The types of items purchased by several the KNIL soldiers is bananas and pineapples that become fruit specific tropical area.

4 Conclusion

Although the revolutionary war in Palembang City occurred on January 1–5 1947, in the context of trade, the trade revolution in Palembang City that involving traders from various ethnic groups has occurred since 1945 when there was a change in the ruling power that controlled Palembang City. The constellation of trade group ethnicity in Palembang is affected by changes regime from the colonial period to the time of independence which was proclaimed on August 17, 1945.

Changes regime that cause existence change “the ruling power” where is Indonesia finally controlled by Republic Indonesia, including Palembang in it. The merchants consisting from various group ethnicity in Palembang, its position influenced by the ruling power. The Dutch classified ethnic groups into several social classes and that led to an exalted ethnic group and a debased ethnic group. Exalted ethnic groups will benefit including in the field of trade and vice versa. When Palembang was controlled by the Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Indonesia no differentiate various group ethnicity to in social class. Government of The Republic of Indonesia embraces every group ethnicity for You’re welcome build Indonesia’s new economy independent. Terms requested by the government just “honest merchants.”

Besides that, the constellation trade is also affected by the loss Republic in The Lima Hari Lima Malam War in January 1947 which caused Palembang to be occupied by entirely by the Dutch. In fact, the Dutch instilled a stronger power by forming the State of South Sumatra with the capital of Palembang on August 30, 1948–1950. Dutch control of Palembang impacted Dutch control (groups of ethnicity Europe) against the economy in Palembang such as took control of the Boom Baru Harbor which became door in and out trading to area outside, determine policy export-import and take dividend from *N.V. Industriële Maatschappij “Palembang.”* However, no means group ethnicity others are silent course. Group Ethnic Bumiputera, Chinese, India and Arabs remain attempted to operate trade and raise efforts even in the middle upheaval.

Ethnic Arabs try to operate efforts that have been work on for a long time, such as PT. Alwi Assegaf. Likewise with Ethnic Chinese with PT Hok Tong and a new PT stood at the end of the revolution, such as PT. Sunan Rubber. However, in addition to large businesses, both ethnic Arabs and ethnic Chinese contribute to trade even on a smaller scale such as grocery stores, cloth shops, electronics stores and middlemen. Interesting thing happens to Ethnic Bumiputera, where they rise from slump During colonization. In the field economy, in 1946, the Republicans organized the export of coal mining goods from Tanjung Enim, South Sumatra. After the 1947 Lima Hari Lima Malam War, manage trade in Palembang more focus on smuggling goods to Singapore, that smuggling was carried out in an organized manner by indigenous intellectuals in collaboration with traders from Palembang. Bumiputera’s ethnic group are thought to be actively involved in the manufacture and trade of cottage home based industry of goods for example being a craftsman and making traditional food.

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