

## REBUILT LOCAL MARGINALIZATION PARTICIPATION IN RIAU ISLAND AS BORDER REGION

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### Abstract

*This study aims to evaluate the level of marginalization of local communities and analyze their participation in the sustainable development of several cities in the Riau Islands (Batam and Bintan in particular) as a developing industrial city and directly adjacent to ASEAN countries. The qualitative descriptive research method uses a case study approach and develops the gentrification concept in the Riau Islands as an implication of a new industrial city that describes a phenomenon empirically. The results showed that Batam and Bintan as one of the developing industrial cities in the border area between Malaysia and Singapore, have influenced the urban system on a national, regional and global scale. The strong support from globalization has resulted in a strong strategy in a more macroscopic framework, the collaboration of various non-state and sub-state actors so that local communities are not increasingly marginalized compared to immigrant communities in industrial cities that are growing rapidly.*

**Keywords:** *Industrial Cities, Local Community, Gentrification, Batam Island, Border Region*

### INTRODUCTION

International cooperation in the border region is the relationship between countries that are close together in order to achieve stability and equality in the different sectors of growth in one region. In the study of international relations, border regions are very important for the preservation of economic and political integration, in particular for the development of cities that are lagging behind the current globalization and modernization. Main issues in border management include the identification of the boundary line between the ocean and the ground, protection and the creation of the border zone. On the other hand, the advent of industrial cities in border regions of Indonesia aims to strengthen the growth agenda of the local population's socio-economic sector so that it is equitable and can perform in an international arena (Sassen,

2004). As globalization advances, the population relies on each other to fulfill the needs of all facets of their lives.

Indigenous communities in a modern industrial city, those bordering developing countries are not in a position to keep up with their innovations. There have been a number of local problems with poverty-stricken backwardness due to weak purchasing power requirements due to high prices of goods and services, insufficient infrastructure and public service (infrastructure) facilities, low-quality human resources and unequal distribution of population and government policies that do not promote the development of border areas and continue to do so. Modern cities which have grown cannot avoid the local marginalization of people who have historically settled in an industrial region. The increasingly widespread

emergence of the illegal cross-border trade phenomenon, the lack of access to, and connectivity to, the domestic and information media was exacerbated by a lack of optimal cooperation between sectors and regions in border management. If issues occur at the international level as a result of weak agreements with other cities or countries, neglect the ingenuity and ability of local government to motivate citizens in the border region. As a border zone, ASEAN countries have tried to take advantage of the various opportunities to realize the fulfillment of the economic rights of the ASEAN community. Various deficits in facilities and infrastructure that occur as a consequence of the absence of government action are increasingly common and inevitable in terms of regional marginalization.

Batam and Bintan City are part of the cities in the Riau Islands (Fig. 1) adjacent to the state or other industrial cities that have grown, and have a direct negative and positive effect, especially in the face of foreign market competition. After the international cooperation between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore in the 1990s, Batam and Bintan City have become a new industrial city. In the hope of expanding the city as part of the planning phase, the development of Batam City's advancement into an industrial city after its geographical location and potential benefits consist of top-down and bottom-up processes for the surrounding districts, and Bintan City has a fast-growing tourism investment force.

However, the rapid growth of the town of Batam has led to dynamic regional changes and is also a phase of land use transition, accompanied by changes in the area of low-income settlements to replace high-income residents. This pattern is also seen by regions adjacent to other states to step forward and emerge as a result of the process of improving an environment that has effectively attracted

the attention of the rich population. As a result, the original population is vulnerable to being evicted because it is unable to adapt to their suburban areas and threatens their life with new patterns of activity to increase the environment to an area of high value.

*Figure 1, Riau Islands*



The gravity of this phenomenon has worried about the survival in the future of the indigenous community in Batam, which depends only on the modest source of life. On the other hand, the involvement or active position of local marginalization by indigenous peoples is also taken into account, in particular the insecurity and preservation of socio-economic and political life alongside industrialized countries. This can be measured because every industrial city has an effect on the production of human capital and the degree to which they can benefit or not. In addition to rising the industrial standards and the implementation that are embedded in the city of Batam, it turns out that the availability of human capital has not been able to increase the standard of living and local marginal welfare.

Some objective explanations for a rise in population attributable, first, to a variety of factors, to a high level of investment, suggesting that businesses are standing up rapidly so that they need competent employees to be ready to work relative to the

unpreparedness of the local population that already exists. Second, there are still very little prospects for competition, since the city of Batam was not profitable until it could be taken over by migrants. Local marginalization has been established on islands that receive less attention from the central government, so that the city or district has a high potential to grow. The program of industrial cities that developed in Indonesia included in the border area with other countries includes Aceh, East Kalimantan, Nusa Tenggara East, Papua and so on.

The general picture of urban growth is not as swift as the city of Batam, but we can expect that there are still many opportunities for families facing socio-economic inequalities in the Riau Islands. Local marginalization, therefore, is similar to injustice and cannot be stopped, particularly against the original inhabitants outside the Batam Islands. Their position in helping sustainable growth, however, must therefore be included in the program of the central government. Evaluation of cooperation in the border area of the Riau Islands has improved other regions with a view to forming cooperation in different contexts but aiming at equitable growth.

Other cities have begun to develop their regions in such a way that they can be accepted internationally by various ways of collaboration and continued involvement, including local marginalization, assisted by efficient infrastructure placement and a zone for the continued growth of the industrial city. However, the conversion of indigenous peoples to migrants in the town of Batam continues to occur and is becoming a significant and complex phenomenon, which is why local or native residents do not feel the impact directly.

Based on the context clarification above, the wording of the problems to be addressed in this article is as follows: 'Why is

the participation of local marginalization in Batam City weakening and what is the effect on the growth of new industrial cities in border regions of the Riau Islands?' The goal of this research is to assess the involvement of local marginalization in the border region in the sustainable development of industrial cities on Batam Island. In addition, finding out which field of participations local marginalization of indigenous peoples cannot be removed in such a way that it becomes an important part of the sustainable development of industrial cities on Batam Island.

### CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Research on local marginalization in industrial cities in European, American and Asian countries has focused extensively on the phenomenon of indigenous and immigrant inequalities between border regions. According to the Partnership for Governance Reform Report (2011) as an independent organization evaluating border management policies in Indonesia. The Indonesian border region is also worried in different ways since many border regions or cities are experiencing economic backwardness due to the lack of government and private programs and projects involving indigenous peoples in the border area (The Partnership for Governance Reform, 2011).

One of the most important threats from the state of the Riau Islands in the border region is the presence of outermost islands, which are likely to be lost as a result of the sand mining that has almost submerged the islands. Sand mining would undoubtedly lead to new and significant problems, namely the danger of borderlines and the blurring of the coordinates of the three countries (Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia).

Research Nurhadi Yuwana, Heru Nugroho, Irwan Abdullah (2018) on "Elite Contestation and Marginalization of Local

Residents at the Kutai Kartanegara Coal Mining Location" highlighted the issue of coal exploration by entrepreneurs, government and security forces, thus widening disparities and even impoverishing residents. Riau Island has data on disparities for a few other districts that are growing every year (Fig 2). Potential actors who make a fortune in the coal struggle. While most of the citizens did not have the opportunity to harvest the riches of coal, the HR constraints and institutional limits established by the elite who cooperate with the power of capital were the result (Pemikiran & Volume, 2018).

Study by Gretchen Ferguson (Hernandez) (2015), entitled *From Spaces of Marginalization to Places of Participation: Indigenous Articulations of the Social Economy in the Highlands of Bolivia*. This research clarified and assessed the change in local marginalization of the population to engage in socio-economic and cultural objectives for the economic growth of the communities in Bolivia. This proves that involvement in local marginalization of indigenous peoples is still needed to balance the development of an industrial city for his country (Hernandez, 2015).

Research by Azka Nur Medha, Putu Gde Ariastita (2017) is expanding the case of marginalization to the emergence of a concept of gentrification that is a symptom or a new trend in the social climate that uses technology and knowledge to occupy industrial cities to become global actors in the border zone. This is because it can guarantee the welfare and other benefits that will occur. The gentrification phenomenon occurs as a result of the process of growing the city that has succeeded in attracting the interest of the wealthy and creating a diverse region where it can stimulate an increase in property prices whose prices are beyond the reach of the original population, rendering the community

vulnerable to being pushed out of the residential area.

Gentrification is a phenomenon that threatens the life of a society as a result of the upgrade of a class to an environment of high value where the community is unable to adapt to the region. This research would promote an increase in the area as a negative connotation if the results of the gentrification process indicate that there are parties who are displaced (gentrified) and those who are displaced to dominate the area. The phenomenon of gentrification takes place as a form of the process of influx of citizens who are more capable to an area that was originally less favorable to different sectors of life, accompanied by the revitalization of the area and causing shifts in land prices and social structures. This migration cycle is typically followed by the development of upper middle class housing, improving access to infrastructure and improving the physical and environmental quality of rural areas, giving rise to new activities and attractions in the region.

This has resulted in the continued influence of the development of public services and social facilities that serve the everyday needs of the upper middle-class community, such as shopping malls, workplaces, schools, etc. As a result, more and more improvements will be made to the characteristics of rural areas in the sub-urban region, which will become more developed and characterized by urban activities, in order to rid local communities of local marginalization.

#### **A. State Perspectives (Realism)**

The practical approach in international relations is used to highlight the power relations of the State against undeveloped cities/regions, especially in border regions. The developing world has a growth,



participation and security dimension. The State is in a position to guarantee the socio-economic process by fostering growth and, on the other hand, the State must guarantee cultural and political processes relevant to citizen involvement in the policy-making process (Martinussen, 1997) in Mudjarad Kuncoro (2017; 17) This article takes advantage of the State's perspective because it is the key player established in the relationship between the sovereigns. Cities that have developed with the nickname of industrial city by sub-state actors such as multinational companies and transnational corporations that are part of state actors by preserving their asymmetrical presence in which the market dominates the position of the state and its people in the national interest (Nijman, 2016)

## B. Development State

Researchers use the state of development theory to analyze and address the relationship between state and development activities in the border zone. Assuming that the nation is the key actor to foster development with an emphasis on development activities for a unitary state like Indonesia. The theory of state growth started to evolve in the late 1980s to the early 1990s. In his writings, Robert Gilpin argues that this theory seems to contradict the neo-liberal orthodox (neoclassical) theory in describing the progress and acceleration of industrialization in East Asia. The growth of industrialization is a neoclassical measure of the economic performance of the New Industrializing Economy (NIEs).

Criticism of the neoclassical view endorsed by the Washington Consensus suggests that the NIEs are attempting to adapt themselves to the market as a type of economic growth strategy, since the market is seen to be more capable of assessing a country's economic performance than state policy

(Gilpin, 2012). The East Asian countries were considered to follow a neo-liberal approach to the growth of their economies. This is achieved by opening up the economy to the world, reducing the country's position in the economy, allowing markets to work properly and implementing export-oriented growth strategies (Routley, 2014).

These approaches are considered to be the secret to the progress of the industrialization of East Asian countries. However, this assumption was dismissed by developing state thinkers who argued that what the East Asian countries did was different from the neo-liberal idea. Instead of letting go of the position of the economy, the state is considered to have a key role in industrial policy. Chalmers Johnson further explored this situation through his analysis of economic growth in the East Asian region, which started in 1982. Johnson departed from economic studies, taking Japan as his main subject.

According to him, the rapid economic growth in this area represents the presence of a state-centred economy. In other words, it is the nation that plays a key role in the progress of growth, not the market as conditions in developed countries. The neo-classical model of growth that should have restricted state control over the economy. The State cannot be free to control market movements, including not being able to serve as a catalyst and to correct market conditions.

On the other hand, the state-centric idea articulated by Chalmers Johnson positions the state as the key player in market management. The State has discretion over price fluctuations, is a market driver and, at the same time, is capable of correcting market conditions. Thus, the state does not actually surrender its economy to the market and the unseen hand. However, the city is part of state actors in the analysis of international affairs, it can join and gain visibility in international fora

or global politics as individuals and as societies. The application of the theory of state development and the concept of state-led development, or of the state as a leader of development, also plays a key role in urban development, and the implementation of this theory requires good governance. The state must be powerful enough to govern the region and its resources and must work with other actors to achieve such national development objectives (Fritz and Menocal, 2006).

### C. Marginal Concept

Cities in the border region, as actors of the sub-states, and geographically deficient in natural and human resources, must be able to be raised in order to contribute to global formation. This gives rise to the possibility that marginal groups can participate as part of a global network and contribute to different types of political practices and subjectivities. The marginalization they face is interrelated, such as marginalization of schooling, which has the most likely effect on employment, culture and other marginalization. It's a spiral of disadvantage (Geddes 2000; Hunter 2000; Kabeer 2000; Levitas 1999). In the theory of marginalization, the phenomenon of local marginalization by indigenous peoples is not due to their desire, but to advances by other parties and beyond those who come and carry out activities that they cannot engage in to create a void for them (Barry 1998; Atkinson 1998). Various groups, both the society and the government, have been marginalized since the initiative has been done on their own. The notion of a marginal society has a connection with the economic growth of a society where this phenomenon is very strong in Europe's early industrial period. In the mid-1970s, Europe's state policy structure was harshly criticized (Saith 2001) for failing to solve the poverty issue and undermine the country's economic growth (Loury 1999; Perlman

1976). In his writing, Rene Lenoir analyzed that the presence of cross-border social networks linking places, particularly global cities, between border regions such as Singapore and Malaysia provides a favorable climate. Another qualification is that a lot of organization and work is required to build an appropriate technological and software infrastructure to make this possible. People, organisations and individuals have played an important role in developing unique local agencies on a variety of scales and thereby building global formations that tend towards horizontal networks. Major global players, such as the IMF and the WTO, are an important part of the global organizations' network and struggle that is being developed across a network of forty global cities in the world today.

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research on the participation of local marginalization in the border area of Batam Island as an industrial city was conducted in the Riau Islands region. This is because the Riau Islands have an area which is directly bordered by Singapore and Malaysia. The researcher conducted direct interviews with a variety of parties directly relevant to the research issue. In this analysis, informants were used as objects of knowledge to assess the participation of local marginalization in the Indonesian border area that has an impact on the growth of the city of Batam. Data analysis may be carried out concurrently with the observation process in the conduct of the study. Thus, the data collected can be analyzed directly during the testing process. Following the research methodology and data collection techniques used in this study, and the interpretation of the data obtained from the field, the analytical approach used is a descriptive analysis. Using this technique, all data or facts collected will be identified by

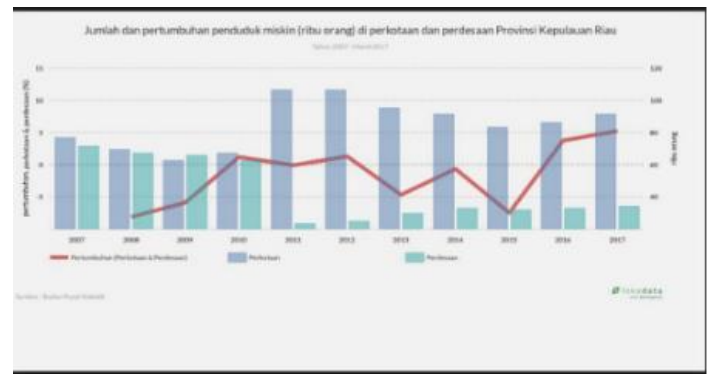
developing relevant categories with the goal of researching and analyzing the results of a descriptive study based on appropriate theories in the field of local marginalization research in the border area. In order to make it easier to analyze, it is important to clarify some of the terms used in this study in order to provide a conceptual meaning. The conceptual indicators that the authors refer to in this analysis are as follows:

1. The Border Area is an area made up of sub-units of States which cooperate inequitable growth.

2. Gentrification is a phenomenon that occurs as a result of the alienation of indigenous peoples due to the current globalization and modernization that is evolving and cannot be prevented in industrial cities such as Batam City, so that they are evicted from the city. The population in Batam City is growing every year and on average the majority of migrants from outside Batam work and connectivity in the search for income as a result of the growth of the city of Batam every year. Poverty is one of the benchmarks for sustainable development in a country or area with significant concern if the population living below the poverty line is more than 10% of the population (Tab 1). It describes the state of the percentage of poverty in the Riau Islands, which has seen a substantial rise from 2015 to 2017. This is due to the increased distribution of population in the town of Batam as a wheel of economic movement in the Riau Islands with support as a base for manufacturing, trade, tourism and ship transfer. Riau Island has data on disparities for a few other districts that are growing every year (Fig 2). Evaluation of people's welfare in the Riau archipelago must require the involvement of the regional government and indigenous communities in developing partnership based on consideration of the effectiveness and effectiveness of public services and mutual benefits. Cooperation with

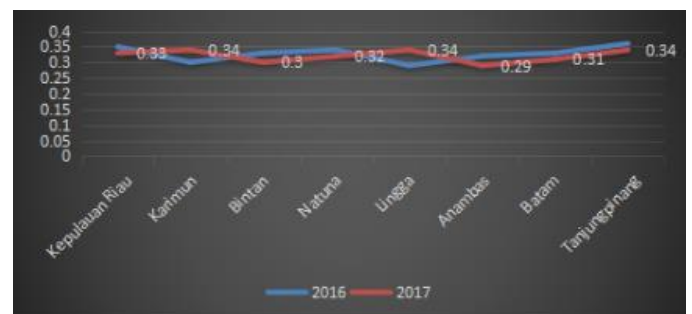
other cities, third parties and/or entities or regional governments abroad can be carried out by the city under constitutional provisions. This matter was dealt with in Chapter XVII of Part One on Regional Cooperation and Conflicts in Law No. 23 of 2014 on Regional Government

**Table 1. Amount of Growth of Poor Population in Urban and Rural Area in Riau Islands 2007-2017**



Source: BPS 2017

**Figure 2. Gini Ratio Riau Islands**

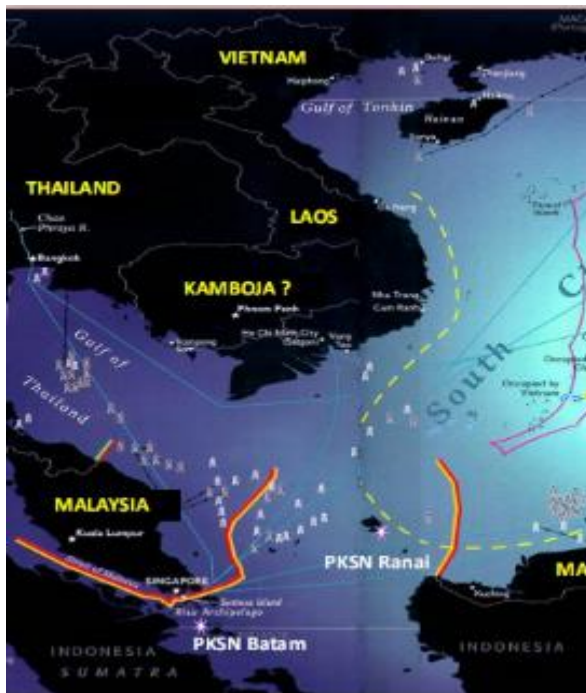


Source: BPS 2018

The legislation also stipulates that regional governments should also promote the involvement of local communities in the administration of government. Local governments promote associations and community organizations to play an active role in the administration of regional government by promoting capacity building for local communities so as not to be gradually marginalized from migrants. Increased community engagement involves, but is not

limited to, the management of assets and/or natural resources in the region, as well as the implementation of public services that may be carried out in the form of public consultations, deliberations, collaborations, the distribution of aspirations, monitoring and/or other involvement in compliance with the requirements of the legislation.

**Figure 3. Map Orientations Riau Island with other countries**



Other researchers have emphasized the importance of the role of the state, but it will not play a full role, especially in taking decisions at the level of international cooperation in the border region (fig 3). Despite frequent conflicts between state and sub-state governments, the position of actor continues to be seen as a general resource for increasing international intervention. Substate actors can successfully establish unique methods and measurements as divided into two groups. Direct approaches are introduced by pursuing legitimacy and international recognition through the adoption of local legislation, signing cooperation agreements, establishing representative offices abroad,

attracting foreign investment, improving the international profile of the city, collaborating with international organizations and twin cities. Meanwhile, indirect approaches are being implemented, influencing central law, manipulating national parliaments, using regional diplomacy and central infrastructure, and exploiting international organisations. The combination of direct and indirect methods has provided the strongest guarantee of success for diplomacy in the areas bordering on developing countries. The characteristics of sub-state actors in each country are to establish a moderately unique background in the creation of their foreign strategies (Michał Słowikowski, 2018).

## CONCLUSION

We argue that the potential of city networks must go hand-in-hand with more inclusive and strategic thinking at both local and international level. The advent of a multi-level approach has undermined the role of the State in the emergence of supranational institutions such as the European Union (Marks, 1996). On the basis of this discussion, it is argued that the nation-state is no longer the only agent capable of promoting international activities, which means that the position of the non-central government enhances the advantages of foreign policy. This study of local marginalization participation relates to the foreign policy of any country and focuses on the participation of foreign parties from sub-state authorities in new industrial cities such as ASEAN countries. Participation in local marginalization is very important for the sustainability zone, and they have the right to vote in favor of living, albeit under high global conditions. Provinces and municipalities can actively invite and host foreign delegations, plan activities and even set up representative offices abroad that include local marginalization. This study offers a detailed



overview of the current issue of local marginal engagement in the border region for international relations studies on the dimension of diplomacy scholars. After all, the study adds that it contributes to a systematic analysis of empirical cases, especially in the border area and several areas bordering ASEAN countries. This analysis may support researchers seeking information and referring to further investigations and emerging issues related to the border region in an international relations report.

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