

RESEARCH TRENDS OF INDONESIAN MINING HISTORY

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country that is abundant in mineral resources. Almost all the islands in the archipelago contain various kinds of minerals—from diamonds and phosphates to zinc—that spread across the islands, from the west to the east of the country. Some commodities such as gold, diamonds, and tin have been mined and traded in the international market for thousands of years. The monopoly once held by the Dutch East India Company (VOC) affected national and international migration and caused wars over access to be fought among the VOC, local kings, local people, and Chinese businessmen. After that time, mining exploitation led to a national and global movement for mining labor and slaves. Chinese people were recruited from South China to be placed at the gold mines in West Kalimantan and at the tin mines in the Bangka-Belitung islands. Slaves were transported from Makassar in Sulawesi and from South Africa to West Sumatra to be worked at the gold mines.

Ironically, the development of research on Indonesia's mining sector does not go hand in hand with the long history of its exploitation, trade, and contribution to the state revenue from the pre-colonial period until Suharto's New Order regime. The research in this sector in Indo-

nesia is less developed in comparison with research in the same sector in southern regions such as Africa and Latin America. It seems that the research of mining history does not happen within a vacuum, but has to be placed in the context of the socio-economic and political development of the state. This paper looks at the historical trajectory of the research trends of mining history in Indonesia in the midst of changing regimes, from the colonial to post-colonial periods.

1. COLONIAL PERIOD (1800–1945)

Research on mining history in Indonesia was almost untouched by social scientists and historians for a long time. Unlike the agricultural sector, which had long been a topic of interest for scholars, the mining sector tended to be neglected. Such neglect cannot be separated from the political-economic policy of the colonial state, which emphasized the development of agricultural commodities more than that of mining resources. A detailed study of the island of Bangka completed in 1812 by Thomas Horsfield [1848] was intended to observe the organization of tin production in the local economic population in order to gain basic knowledge of Bangka Island as a whole. The result of the study was given to British officials, who later occupied and changed the organization of tin production (1813–1816) by recruiting Chinese workers and controlling them directly. Thus, there were British politics behind the research done by Horsfield.

By the end of the colonial period, some articles and books had been published by authors such as H. H. van Kol [1910], J. C. van Reigersberg Versluijs [1916], J. H. Verloop [1916], H. Witkamp [1917], R. J. van Lier [1918], and Alex L. ter Braake [1944]. The years of these studies' publications were important years in the economic development of the mining sector.

First, the problems of land compensation, mining permits, taxes, and royalties, as well as hot debates among colonial actors and the response of Dutch parliament members to those issues, were explained by van Kol in his book. The production of books on mining history increased when the mining sector played an important role in contributing to economic development during the First World War (1914–1918). Most of them were written by mining engineers who had long experience working in the mining sector. While Dutch social scientists paid little attention to this research, their books were essentially textbooks on the history of mining commodities such as coal, tin, and gold, and on mine discovery,

mining technology, production, and marketing. They also dealt with how mining commodities were affected by the Depression in the 1930s.

Of the authors mentioned above, only van Reigersberg Versluijs analyzed the Dutch colonial politics of mineral and energy resources in the midst of the critical economic conditions and political instability of the First World War. Ter Braake, a Dutch mining engineer who worked in the Bangka tin mines, published his book at the end of the Dutch colonial government's rule. He analyzed the history of various mining commodities from economic perspectives, especially the effects of the Depression in the 1930s, which had a negative impact on the decrease of price and export restrictions on tin and coal. In sum, most such textbooks on mining history were written by Dutch mining engineers.

Apart from the work of these engineers, research on mining in Indonesia was done by the colonial state institute called the Labor Inspectorate. Its position was within the Ministry of Education, Industry, and Religion. Labor Inspectorate officials did a yearly survey of labor conditions in the plantations and mining companies. This kind of survey cannot be separated from colonial policy in terms of solving the problem of labor control and labor discipline.

The change of regime from the Dutch government to the Japanese military occupation did not appear to bring about big changes in social research on Indonesian mining. Although the Japanese military government (1942–1945) controlled all mining sectors that were managed by various Japanese companies, social research in this sector was still neglected, while non-social research was started by Japanese mining engineers in the first years of the Japanese military occupation.

2. THE OLD ORDER REGIME (1945–1966)

Not much can be explained in terms of Indonesian mining studies for the period of 1945–1966. Although Indonesia gained its independence in 1945, it was confronted with new problems that emerged immediately in the newly birthed Indonesian Republic. The young republic not only had to maintain its independence from the Dutch during the Revolution (1945–1949), but also had to recover its vital economic sectors while facing internal political conflicts. When the agreement on the unitary state of Indonesian as a nation was reached in December 1949, the Indonesian government faced a variety of problems in the following years (1950–1965). Those included regional separatist movements, the rise and fall of the cabinet, the politics of the nationalization of the Dutch

companies, and economic inflation until the switching of the country's regime from the Old Order regime to the New Order regime.

Mining companies suffered from these conditions [Pluvier 1978:156]. Besides a lack of capital and mining equipment, many mining companies were burned down after the Japanese came in, and around the start of the Indonesian revolution. As a result, mining companies suffered and some were even forced to close. In the following years, the Dutch mining companies were nationalized and their management system was under the control of military managers by the end of the Old Order regime. During that period, Indonesian mining companies were in a stagnated stage of development.

In looking at the development of mining research during this period of political instability and gloomy economic development, it seems that the development of social research related to mining did not interest scholars from either government research institutions or non-governmental organizations (NGOs). However, since Indonesia gained its independence, some universities, such as in the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), have begun to create departments for students who want to major in mining research. Yet, the themes of their research are oriented more toward mining's technological problems than its socio-economic problems.

3. FROM THE NEW ORDER REGIME TO THE REFORM ERA (1966–2010)

After the abolishment of the Indonesian Communist Party (the PKI) and the left wing of the Indonesian National Party (PNI), Guided Democracy government and the old principles of guided economic policy were no longer tenable. Faced with the challenge of rebuilding the economic sector, the New Order government took a more positive view of the role of private capital, but at the same time prevented excesses of "free-fight capitalism" [Robinson 1986:213]. In order to fulfill its mission, the state continued to play an important role in economic development through what is called state-owned corporate capital. Essentially, the state established production facilities in cooperation with foreign companies that provided the bulk of indispensable investments. In the mining sector, state corporations such as Pertamina (oil), PT Bukit Asam (coal mines), PT Tambang Timah Indonesia (tin mining), and PT Aneka Tambang (gold mining) were created.

In addition to those efforts, the government opened up certain re-

gions to multi-national companies (MNC) that could exploit mining commodities such as coal and gold, especially in Kalimantan and Papua. In 1967, the New Order regime gave the mining authority to PT Freeport, a multi-national company that produces gold and copper in West Papua; a year later, mining authority was given to PT Inco, which exploited nickel in southeast and central Sulawesi. A large part of the island of Kalimantan was exploited by several multi-national mining companies, some of which joined national mining companies based on working contracts. In short, economic expansion in the mining sector reached its peak in the 1980s.

In terms of mining policy, the New Order regime capital was not in a strong enough position to exploit abundant mineral resources. Therefore, the state's mineral resource policies made things easier for businesses, whether on the basis of working contract systems, joint ventures, or profit sharing. In doing so, the New Order regime opened the door for foreign and domestic companies to invest their capital in the mining sector. Several multi-national and national companies entered the mining sector with high-risk investments in the 1980s, at the time when the New Order regime was taking off and was politically stable. Most of the mining companies were located on the island of Kalimantan, as well as some other locations spread throughout the archipelago, mainly in the Outer Islands.

Together with the increasing exploitation of mining companies, social problems were emerging from mining activities. Social studies on this subject also developed, especially from the 1970s to the 2000s. Social research on the mining sector began develop; it covered a variety of themes, approaches, and periods of study. Without pretending to be a comprehensive review, the following explanation highlights new perspectives of social research in the mining sector.

Research on the mining sector was no longer being performed strictly by mining engineers or interested parties; rather, its scope grew much wider than it had been before. Social scientists and activists as well as people struggling for human rights and environmental policy, development of local communities, and gender equity began to pay attention and do research on mining companies. It should be noted that during the last three decades, Indonesian and foreign scholars have covered a lot of new ground in alternative perspectives on mining studies, especially in the fields of history, ethno-history, sociology, anthropology, political economy, environmentalism, and interdisciplinary approaches.

Students from the Departments of History, Anthropology, Law, and Economy at the University of Indonesia in Depok, Gajahmada Univer-

sity in Jogjakarta, and Andalas University in Padang have chosen the mining sector as an object of their studies since the 1990s. Besides the universities mentioned above, state-owned research institutions such as the Indonesian Institute of Sciences have observed the mining sector in the context of research on social conflict. Outside of Indonesia, students from the Department of History at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands have studied the socio-economic and political history of mining companies in colonial Indonesia. Some PhD students from Indonesia who are studying in the Department of Resource Management at Australian National University in Canberra have been writing about current socio-economic issues in gold mining companies by studying PT Freeport in Timika, Papua, and PT Aneka Tambang in West Java.

By the end of the 1990s, other parties outside of the academic community had become interested in mining sector research and had begun writing articles and books on the subject. These mostly came from NGOs, such as the Jaringan Advokasi Tambang (Mining Advocacy Network, known as JATAM) and the Lingkar Study CSR (a study circle on CSR). The JATAM was set up in 1995, focusing its activities on not only advocacy but also researching the negative impact on the environment of mining exploitation. It has several branch offices in areas in which mining companies are located, mostly in Sumatra, Kalimantan, and Nusa Tenggara. The study circle on CSR pays attention to the problems of the corporate social responsibility practices of mining companies for local communities.

The research trends regarding Indonesia's mining sector can be divided into three important elements: companies, local community, and the state. These will be elaborated upon in the following sections.

3.1 Mining companies and mining communities

Under the auspices of a Dutch economic historian, Thomas Lindblad and his undergraduate students in the Department of History at Leiden University in the Netherlands have written about this subject from a corporate history approach [Schölte 1989; Baks 1989]. They focused on coal and gold mining corporations located in Kalimantan and West Sumatra, emphasizing their micro-economic aspects by analyzing the historical trajectory of capital investment, technology, production, marketing, and profit of the Dutch mining companies during the colonial period. Their work can be seen as an initial step in researching mining companies from the micro-economic angle. Its approach is very quantitative and is unable to explain what happens beyond the display of statistical fig-

ures. In other words, these studies do not reveal the role of actors in the politics of capital investment, production, and marketing. The study did not provide information, for instance, about the dynamics of relationships among shareholders and managerial staff members in managing and tackling the abovementioned problems. Nevertheless, these studies have enriched our understanding of the historical development of multinational mining companies in colonial Indonesia.

The opening of a mining company is followed by the creation of a mining society with a high level of social stratification based on different cultural, religious, and occupational backgrounds. Information on the socio-political aspects of the mining society can be found in studies by authors such as James C. Jackson [1969, 1970], Wang Tai-Peng [1977], Mohammad Gade Ismail [1981], Nagaoka Shinjirō [1982], Harleem Siahaan [1994], Sonny Chr. Wibisono and Hasan Muarif Ambary [1994], Mary F. Somers Heidhues [2003], and Günter Lewin and Marianne Lewin [1997]. Most of the authors describe the social organization of Chinese gold miners called *kongsi*.

Kongsi has been examined from the standpoint of cultural geography as a secret society or a socio-economic or political organization, including social conflicts both within *kongsis* and between local communities and the Sultan of Sambas in West Kalimantan. Local sultans first encouraged Chinese miners to come to Borneo to mine gold during the first half of the 18th century. They discovered that Chinese mining technology and organization greatly increased production and profit compared with earlier native efforts. In time, the mine units grew larger and expanded in number and power at the expense of the sultans. By the early 19th century, the larger *kongsi* federations were virtually independent of the sultans. When the Dutch returned to West Borneo in 1818, they found that much of the territory they had claimed was effectively under *kongsi* authority. What followed was a struggle for power among the Dutch, the sultans, and some individual *kongsi* who were fighting against the more powerful federations, which lasted until 1854. The great *kongsi* federations came out the losers.

Comparative studies of Chinese *kongsis* in gold mining areas in West Kalimantan and Bangka have been done by Jackson [1969] and Heidhues [2003]. Wibisono and Ambary [1994] completed research from the archeological perspective in Chinese settlements surrounding mine areas in Montrado. In brief, research on the socio-political history of Chinese gold miners has been widely carried out. Research on the socio-political history of Chinese tin miners in Bangka and Belitung has been done by Heidhues [1992] and Erwiza Erman [2009]. Heidhuis places

Chinese tin miners as part of the making of a Chinese community in the Bangka-Belitung islands. Erman's study that is very rich and nuanced in its perspective reveals the fluctuating economic activities of the Chinese communities in tin mines and in pepper plants before and after the colonial period. These two leading commodities and their fluctuating prices were sometimes helpful for Chinese miners and peasants in coping with the economic crisis of the 1930s, 1960s and 1990s.

Social research that focuses on labor control and labor condition in tin and coal mines has been done by Erman [1995, 2005], Suribidari [1994], Zaiyardam Zubir [1994], and van Empel [1999]. The latter three authors analyzed labor organization and labor conditions such as the housing, food, and health issues of coal miners from the opening of the Ombilin coalmines in 1892 until the end of 1920s, while Erman focused on labor control and labor politics in changing regimes, from the colonial period to the New Order (1892–1996). This new approach can be seen in the ways in which the author analyzes labor regimes in the context of socio-economic and political development. There is a very strong interrelation between changes in labor control, including social relations in the organization of production on the one hand, and labor resistance and labor protests in the socio-political economic development of the state on the other. In the period under study (1892–1996), the author shows us changes in the control of labor, from physical violence to social control, as well as changes in labor resistance and labor protest. An important thing to note is that labor control and labor protest were colored by overlapping conflicts, including ideology, ethnicity, and class.

The connected themes of mining and women, which began to be considered in research in the late 1980s, cannot be separated from the increase in women's research centers at various universities and research institutions in Indonesia. Gender approach to social research is used as an attempt to explain the occurrence of social inequality due to development and as a reaction against the New Order government policies that domesticated the role of women. In the 1980s, Kathryn Robinson, an Australian anthropologist, used the gender approach to analyze the mining community of the nickel mining company PT Inco, located in Soroako, Southwest Sulawesi [Robinson 1983, 1991a, 1991b, 1998]. Robinson produced many articles with a focus on the labor relations and labor conflicts caused by different cultures between local women who work as housemaids at the houses of employers who come from outside of town.

Robinson's gender analysis can also be seen from the standpoint that links women with mining and development as well as sex and class

relations. Robinson's efforts were later continued by many subsequent researchers who examined the presence of women as prostitutes and contract wives for white-collar workers from abroad [Kunanayagam, Kahn, and Young 1995]. There have also been short articles written by the women activists about the life of women in a coal mining company in East Kalimantan and a gold mining company in Nusa Tenggara [Santi 2003; Susmiyati 2003]. These studies focused on the working and living conditions of female laborers and wives of a group of mining community who were from middle class and above. There have also been studies that show the trajectory of women's history in mining, including their formal and informal politics and their role in overcoming the economic crisis within mining families [Hanartani 2003; Lahiri-Dutt 2006; Erman 2002, 2004]. It seems that the gender approach to analyzing the various aspects of mining communities has made tremendous progress through the 2000s. Gender analysis has also been used by social scientists in examining the impact of mining companies on the development of local communities.

3. 2 Local communities

Proponents of development theories say that the presence of mines is considered as the agent of change or the agent of development for local communities. Many economic studies show that the local communities in various mining areas such as 'chicken dies in the rice granary'. It means that the standard of living local communities in the surrounding of mines in a state of left behind as the result of uneven development. Many problems that arise among the communities around the mines are related to issues of the violation of human rights and problems of injustice.

Under the centralized, authoritarian regime of President Suharto, protesting against human rights abuse and social injustice in the vicinity of the mines was nearly impossible for local residents because such protests would bring about insecurity for them; therefore, the local community preferred to keep silent than to receive punishment from the state. By the end of the New Order regime, the previously strong state control of society had become weak, while at the same time, NGOs were becoming more and more powerful and beginning to criticize the government's development programs for not siding with the people's welfare. Within this framework, there was a lot of criticism of Indonesian mining companies coming from local communities. The culmination of this movement was reached in 1998, marked by the beginning of the Reform Era.

Within the regional autonomy of the Reform Era, there have been many problems of social injustice and violations of human rights in areas surrounding mines, which have brought about a prolonged conflict between mining companies and local communities. Social researchers who had not focused on local communities in the past now felt challenged to find solutions to these conflicts. Kathryn Robinson in her book *The Stepchildren of Progress*, published in 1986, analyzed the causes of the marginalization of local communities due to the development of mining companies. For six subsequent years, the theme of social conflicts in mine areas was investigated by a number of researchers from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI). This was collaborative research involving researchers from different disciplines, such as geologists, environmentalists, historians, economists, and sociologists. They tried together to investigate the causes and characteristics of the social conflicts between mining companies and local communities and attempted to determine how to solve the related problems [Zulkarnain 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008].

This research on local communities was done at a time when the Indonesian government was facing numerous protests from local communities living in the vicinity of mines. This research has produced 'policy papers' that have suggested ways in which to solve the social conflicts in mine areas. In addition, graduate and postgraduate students from the Departments of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Indonesia have focused on social conflicts in mining areas from different points of view [Sastra 2008]. In line with this research interest, two postgraduate students from Indonesia have been completing their dissertations about social conflicts in the gold mining areas of Cikotok, West Java and Timika, Papua. Social conflicts in the mine areas have become hot-button issues that have been debated by state actors, politicians, academicians, and activists.

The specific impact on the local community of the mining exploitation done by PT Kaltim Prima Coal (KPC) in East Kalimantan, especially on women and young people, can be found in Lahiri-Dutt's study [Lahiri-Dutt and Macintyre 2006]. The general impacts for both women and youths vary, including an influx of migrants spurred by urbanization; a higher standard of living; more roads, schools and health care centers/facilities; increased access to training; and better employment opportunities. However, neither have these changes equally affected the women and men nor have they affected all women in the same manner. In most cases, the winners have been those with better education or with economic power and skills that enable them to cope with the

changes and reap benefits from them. The negative impacts were often specific to a particular person or group. They included cost of living issues, lack of direct employment opportunities in the mines for women and their resulting dependency on male relatives, environmental impacts (dust and water), loss of agricultural land and resources, failure to provide compensation to ensure sustainable alternative livelihoods, and women's lack of decision-making power at the community level. Meanwhile, young people with unfulfilled expectations regarding employment and income are drawn into drugs, brothels, and crime.

This research contrasts with the results of studies conducted by NGOs such as the JATAM. The JATAM pays more attention to the negative impacts of the mining exploitation on local communities than to the positive impacts. The JATAM has published between forty and fifty books covering the various grievances of local communities in various areas of mining exploitation, from the west to the east of Indonesia. The problems include low land compensation, health, reduction of agricultural areas, water pollution, and natural disasters such as floods caused by forest cutting. The NGO's efforts to empower local communities to struggle for their rights have been partly successful and are partly still under way. In addition, the production of these books is used for advocacy purposes; they are also useful as a basic material for scholarly research.

The protests of local communities against the negative impacts of mining companies on various aspects of their lives have brought negative consequences for the companies themselves. Such protests have not only stopped the production process they have forced some companies to close down. After seeing the impact of the local communities' increasingly intense protests, some multi-national mining companies set aside some of their profits to implement the Community Development (CD) program, which has since changed to the program of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Along with mining companies' implementation of CSR and CD, there has been emerging social research at government research institutions, universities, and NGOs. This research aims to test to what degree the CD and CSR programs are achieving their objectives. The books that resulted from social research on CD and CSR are numerous, making it impossible to cite them all here. Nevertheless, as seen from the research reports, the quality of this social research depends on the academic background and intellectual experience of the researchers. Apart from these issues, it can clearly be seen that the bulk of social research results and advocacy programs are carried out as a part of the grassroots negotiation process with mining companies, which is backed

by the more 'democratic' political climate that descended on Indonesia after Suharto's early days as president.

3. 3 The role of the state

According to Chris Ballard and Banks, globalization is a useful point of departure for discussion of the role of the state in mining [Ballard and Banks 2003]. Both authors convincingly argue that the death of the nation-state has been greatly exaggerated by both critics and proponents of globalization and that while the nation-state's capacity for governance changed and in some respects has weakened considerably, it remains a pivotal institution. This concept holds water in the case of mining because governments tend to play "an exceptionally large role in the resources sector of almost all developing countries for a number of reasons" [Ross 1999:305]. One of these is the role of the state regulating the entry of multinational mining companies into a particular country, which occurred throughout the 1980s and 1990s, despite World Bank and International Monetary Fund prescriptions that encouraged the relaxation of conditions for foreign investors in the mineral sectors of developing countries.

What about the Indonesian state? Is the state of Indonesia following other developing countries? How much is the change from the authoritarian New Order regime to the Reform Era bringing changes to the role of the state in the mining resource sector? Has the nation-state's capacity for governance changed by showing its power to regulate the entry of multinational mining companies into Indonesia? This series of questions might be answered by examining the results of social research on the role of the state in the mining sector.

Social research, including the history of the role of the state in the mining sector, which started in the 1990s, not only covers the contemporary period, but also examines the traditional kingdoms that existed in the archipelago in the 18th century, which were in the business of mining commodities. Vos [1993] examines the role of the kings of Malays, Malacca, Palembang, and Johor in producing tin and trading with the VOC in intra-Asian trade, discussing how its process of negotiation was carried out.

In relation to this, an even more interesting point is that some local state actors colluded with certain officials of the VOC in their efforts to turn a blind eye towards the smuggling of tin from Bangka Island to Singapore. The traditional local state government, the Sultanate of Palembang, was weak in enforcing laws to prevent the smuggling of tin

for individual interests. In the 19th century, the continually weak role of the traditional local state government in the bargaining process with the mining companies in Kutai, East Kalimantan, effectively allowed the opening of mining companies. On the one hand, the local kings profited from giving mining concessions to private companies; on the other hand, local communities generally remained poor and underdeveloped up to the present time, as indicated from results of recent studies.

Nevertheless, studies on the role of the state in the mining sector during the period of Japanese occupation and the post-colonial periods are still not numerous. It is important to note that the role of the Japanese military was strong in handing over the management of mines to private Japanese companies such as Sumitomo, Mitsubishi, and Hokkaido, which exploited oil, tin, and coal in Sumatra on the premise of state interests. In discussing aspects of Japanese business activities connected with Japanese military rule in Indonesia, Hikita Yasuyuki [1996] described the Japanese policy in the mining sector and the activities of private companies during wartime conditions. Studies on these subjects during this period are important, especially those that cover the period until the collapse of the New Order regime in May 1998.

Dennis Leith [2002, 2003] is one of the social scientists who has focused his study on the importance of the New Order regime under President Suharto in giving military protection to PT Freeport-McMoRan in West Papua. Politically and economically, Freeport became significant to the Suharto regime. This company is one of the largest employers and taxpayers in the nation, and eventually ran one of the largest socio-economic programs in Indonesia. The company was described by Suharto as essential to the nation's economy. Freeport's importance encouraged the development of mutually beneficial and supportive relationships among the company, the Indonesian president, his military, and the nation's political elite. In return, Freeport was politically and physically protected by the regime. In a very centralized state, local elites in Papua had a weak bargaining position with the mining company because the decision-making process was undergone by the central government. Compared to other mining companies, PT Freeport-McMoRan has been a fertile and rich field for social scientists to investigate because of the complicated social problems that originated from the exploitation of the mining company.

There was a shift in the role of the state after Indonesia entered the Reform Era and achieved regional autonomy in early 2001. The shifting role of the state from the center to the regions can be seen in the provision of concessions and the distribution of benefits gained from the pres-

ence of mining companies. However, this process is not running smoothly because the actors at the central and local levels tend to face conflicts in their efforts to gain control over natural resources. Illegal mining and illegal trade have increased dramatically since the Reform Era. This phenomenon has attracted many social scientists to conduct more research, including Arif Budimanta [2007], Erman [2004, 2005, 2007] and a team of researchers from LIPI that was led by Iskandar Zulkarnain [2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008]. From the results of research published from 2003 to 2006 can be known the current issues such as potency and causes of social conflicts that emerged between big mining companies and small scale mines, between central and local governments, between mining companies and local communities. There are many factors that caused the outbreak of social conflicts such as contradictory regulations between national and local governments, and the unbalanced economic development between companies and local residents. While two books published in 2007 and 2008 analyze social, legal and environmental problems happened in small scale mining operations. The authors give suggestions to governments to solve the problems. The results of the research show that the history of the patterns of political economy of state actors during the New Order regime moved from central governmental actors to district heads in a phenomenon known as “the emergence of small kings in the region.” Similar to state actors in the New Order regime, district heads preferred to protect the mining companies than the local community’s interests and the environment.

In order to answer the question regarding the Mining Law, books, articles, and many students began to examine related issues. One book that discusses the Mining Law in Indonesia was written by Salim H. [2007]. This book rethinks the Mining Law of 1967 that was issued by the New Order regime. In addition, students from the Faculty of Law at the University of Indonesia and the University of Mulawarman in Samarinda have become interested in investigating the problems of the New Mining Law issued at the beginning of 2010.

4. CONCLUSION

There are four important points that can be noted in relation to social research trends regarding the mining sector in Indonesia.

First, social research on Indonesia’s mining sector has had a tendency to intensify, although each historical period has its own trajectory that is influenced by the socio-political pressures of the state and by so-

cial issues that have arisen in the mining sector.

Second, there has been a shift in the type of researchers studying this subject. In the beginning, research on mining was mostly done by mining experts or people with a lot of experience working in mining companies or mining services. At a later stage, this sector became the object of the attention of social scientists from various disciplines coming from national research institutes, universities, and activist groups.

Third, due to the widespread and complex social issues that have emerged in the mining sector and the increasing complexity of the actors involved in related conflicts, the participation of various social scientists is unavoidable. Such scientists perform research on the mining sector from various viewpoints, including political economy, anthropology, history, sociology, and environmental science.

Fourth, the intensity of mining sector research in various disciplines is higher than ever before, a trend in line with the critical issues that emerged during the Reform Era. Unlike the New Order era, in which the government strongly controlled the knowledge production of social scientists, the Reform Era provided social scientists with the freedom to voice their criticism of the social problems that have arisen in the mining sector.

ENDNOTE

The bibliography does not include the JATAM's publication. This can be found through its website.

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