

DEFENDING HISTORICAL STUDY

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Abstrak: Artikel ini menyajikan bahasan tentang persoalan mengapa studi sejarah masih tetap relevan dengan kebutuhan and kepentingan masa-sekarang. Relevansi studi sejarah ditunjukkan melalui pengungkapan kemanfaatan yang terkandung dalam kajian sejarah sebagai bahan untuk menyikapi permasalahan kekinian dan masa depan. Persoalan filosofis penting untuk selalu direnungkan oleh mereka yang menggeluti disiplin sejarah. Hal ini terkait terutama dengan sering munculnya kritik bahwa sejarah adalah bidang yang usang dan ketinggalan jaman apalagi di tengah perubahan pesat dalam era globalisasi dan teknologi informasi. Sejarawan seringkali dibuat gagap dan canggung dalam menjawab pertanyaan-pertanyaan eksistensial semacam ini sehingga memperkuat citra negatif yang orang sering lekatkan pada disiplin sejarah.

Kata Kunci: studi sejarah, kebutuhan, globalisasi, masa kini.

1. Introduction

The present world has been experiencing a rapid development in science and communication technology. The process has radically shaped the society in many of its aspects. The world has become more closely integrated and as a result, geographical distance becomes literally less significant. Events that occur in one place can be broadcasted in almost no time to the other part of the globe. Satellite and internet technology contribute greatly to the achievements. Many people look forward to seeing and celebrating the coming of the global village era.

Due to this development, questions relating to the relevance of history, often arise. Some people believe that history is irrelevant to the present context. In their view, history is no use to address the globalisation issues and problems facing human society. Therefore, studying history is a waste of time because it makes no direct and real contribution to create a better society. In a more extreme formulation, this criticism claims that the present world does not require history. The past is strikingly contrasted with the present and future. In this position, according to them, attention should be paid completely to the present issues, not the past, because the present promises a wide range of opportunities in the future.

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