

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF GLOBALIZATION OF WESTERN CULTURES: THE RESPONSES OF LIPIA STUDENTS TO HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION IN RIYADH

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### ABSTRACT

*Westerners often talk about freedom of life in the modern era, including the Arab region which has begun to follow western cultural developments regarding modernization. Halloween is one of the celebrations held in Riyadh. By using a qualitative descriptive method, namely by analyzing the facts related to this information based on literature research from journals and articles as well as the results of questionnaires from LIPIA Jakarta students about Halloween in Riyadh, so that it is clear what LIPIA Jakarta Students think about the pros and cons. Thus, the outcome of Halloween in Riyadh is media conjecture, as the setting and feel coincides with Halloween celebrations in the west.*

**Keywords:** *Halloween; Riyadh; Western Culture; LIPIA Jakarta Students*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The era that continues to develop results in technology that continues to advance and the ease of dissemination of information is what is called globalization. Globalization has a major influence in the international world because it functions for the development of a country and its inhabitants from various aspects of life. If a country is not affected by globalization, then the country can be said to be left behind and underdeveloped.

Broadly speaking, globalization has two important factors for significant developments to occur, namely education and technology. Like the saying "Seek knowledge as far as China", which is proof that education is an important thing that must be sought wherever it is. Currently, an example of China that fits the current era is Japan, which is the initiator of Industry 5.0.

Including one of them is cultural aspects from the west, such as Halloween which is usually celebrated by western countries towards the end of the year as a summer warning on November 1 to be precise, Halloween is also a tradition from western culture which is carried out almost every year by several countries, including Riyadh which just celebrated this year.

The existence of Halloween celebrations in the city of Riyadh suddenly caused controversy for the community, especially Muslims. This policy carried out by the government of Mohammed Bin Salman can have an impact on the Islamic world, because what we know is that Riyadh is a part of Saudi Arabia which has very strong Islamic law, especially its adherence to the sunnah of the Prophet.

So that there are many responses from Muslim circles to this phenomenon, especially the younger generation who have a strong role as agents of change. One of the younger generations who can make changes, namely students, with education knowledge possessed by students can have a major influence on public awareness. This is shown by the enthusiasm and active and critical attitude that students have to become pioneers in addressing modernization or problems that exist in this era of sophisticated technological development, so there is a need for direct responses from students to this event.



## **RESEARCH METHODS**

In this study, the method we use is a qualitative research method. By compiling the data from this research systematically, it can facilitate the steps that the author has to collect information or data. With this method, the author's analysis from various sources wants to provide an overview of the facts. Apart from originating from facts, the authors also distributed questionnaires as data on the responses of LIPIA Jakarta students to this phenomenon.

The distribution of the questionnaire was carried out in the period November 24-25 in the form of 11 choice questions and 1 response in the form of a narrative, as many as 37 respondents were involved in filling out this questionnaire. LIPIA itself has links with Saudi Arabia, considering that LIPIA is an educational branch built in Indonesia by Saudi Arabia in order to improve the field of religious knowledge with the same curriculum as Saudi Arabia.

In this research method, we use historical and anthropological approaches that are in accordance with the existing truth, because there is a connection between the two, so it is hoped that this can provide an overview for our data analysis. We also provide flexibility for other authors to be able to add writing based on secondary sources by taking into account the suitability of subtitles and related sources, as well as changing some words or paraphrases to prevent too large a percentage of plagiarism.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Facts About Halloween Celebration**

#### **History of Halloween Celebration**

The origin of Halloween celebrations is a festival celebrated by an ancient Celtic group called Samhain every October 31 to November 1. In the past, Celtic groups celebrated Samhain with the aim of welcoming the new year from the harvest season to winter by lighting big bonfires. The Celts believed that this was a sacred time when the spirits of the dead returned to the world to take food. Therefore, they provide animals and plants as food offerings for the spirits who are believed to be coming. Animals and plants were burned in the large bonfires they made, then the bonfires were left burning until the festival was over. Well, this is where the religious ritual of the Samhain fire festival lies.



Over time, the Samhain ritual underwent modernization which is now better known as Halloween. In this Halloween festival celebration, people dress up in special costumes to ward off ghosts, they also shape pumpkins into scary visual monsters with lanterns inside. That said, the pumpkin is believed to be an evil spirit named Jack O'Lantern who wanders around carrying a lantern.

Then the uniquely dressed children will come to several houses to ask for food. then if they are not given a treat they will bully the house. Nicholas Rogers explained that "Halloween is a satanic ritual", so it can be concluded that this Halloween celebration is a form of worship of the devil.

### **Halloween Celebration According to Islamic Sharia**

Halloween is one of the celebrations that is often carried out by European people on November 1 each year. Over time, this Halloween celebration has also begun to be celebrated by several countries in the world. This celebration has become a familiar custom. The western world, which is now the mecca of the world in all respects, makes it a world model with the term 3F (food, film and fashion). These three aspects are an integral part of the globalization era.

The development of the era of globalization that emerged from western nations certainly cannot be separated from freedom. Most European countries that adhere to liberalism have caused many celebrations or customs to be carried out without any restrictions. When viewed from an Islamic perspective, of course, western cultural customs are very much in conflict with Islamic law. Islam in its sharia has regulated everything including human behavior and actions in living life.

Islamic Sharia does have certain limitations and rules in its application, as well as the Islamic Sharia that has been established by Allah is of benefit to every human being. Responding to this case is certainly contrary to Islamic law. As the words of the prophet Muhammad in the hadith narrated by Abu Daud,

حَدَّثَنَا عُثْمَانُ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو النَّضْرِ حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنُ ثَابِتٍ حَدَّثَنَا حَسَّانُ بْنُ عَطِيَّةَ عَنْ أَبِي مُنِيبِ الْجُرَشِيِّ عَنْ ابْنِ عُمَرَ قَالَ : قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ مَنْ تَشَبَّهَ بِقَوْمٍ فَهُوَ مِنْهُمْ ُ

Had told us Uthman bin Abu Syaibah, had told us Abu An Nadhr, had told us 'Abdurrahman bin Thabit, had told us Hassan bin Athiyah from Abu Munib Al Jurasyi from



Ibn Umar he said, "Rasulullah shallallahu 'alaihi wasallam said: "Whoever intercedes for a people, then he is part of them."

### **Role Of The State of Saudi Arabia Towards Modernization**

#### **Economic Dynamics of Saudi Arabia as a Superpower Country**

Saudi Arabia is a superpower country located in the Middle East region, many industrial countries are looking for petroleum as an abundant natural resource. Thus, oil is the main source of state revenue for Saudi Arabia which reaches 70% of total state revenue, the positive impact of which is prosperity, increased income, and construction of facilities.

On the other hand, this has had an impact on Saudi Arabia's economic stability and dependence, because oil is a limited natural resource and prices fluctuate on the international market. To overcome the above problems, Saudi Arabia launched "Saudi Vision 2030", with the aim of releasing the economy's dependence on petroleum, by emphasizing human resources and improving public services in order to create a strong, developing and stable economy.

There are three important pillars in the Saudi Vision 2030, namely a dynamic society (A Vibrant Society), economic development (Thriving Economy), and the country's national ambitions (An Ambition Nation).

#### **Saudi Vision 2030 Policy by the Government of Saudi Arabia**

Saudi Arabia as a country that has wealth in the form of natural oil resources and as a country that has a monarchy system of government and is known as an Islamic country, however Saudi Arabia does not use an Islamic government system in running its government. In carrying out its government system, Saudi Arabia made several adjustments to the conditions in Saudi Arabia.

The monarchical or royal system of government run by Saudi Arabia is seen by many countries as an archaic monarchical system of government. Saudi Arabia as a country in the form of a kingdom with an absolute government system based on the Islamic religion, all laws that apply in Saudi Arabia are also made based on Islamic sharia. In terms of the king's guidance as the head of government and head of state in Saudi Arabia and the issue of demands also made in accordance with Islamic teachings. The monarchical system of government run by Saudi Arabia where the king has unlimited power.



Modernization policies from various aspects were proclaimed by Muhammad bin Salman when he began to become crown prince, including:

In 2018, Saudi Arabia allowed women to drive and issue women's licenses by first practicing for one.

In August 2019, the guardianship system for women was abolished so that women do not need to seek guardian permission to travel, can act as guardian for their children, file for divorce, birth and death.

On April 18 2018, cinemas opened after 35 years of being banned as a form of moral preservation by conservative Islamic groups.

In 2018, women will be allowed to watch in sports stadiums, with men and women separated.

In 2017, the ban on the use of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) was lifted in several online applications.

In September 2019, Saudi Arabia offered tourist visas for 49 countries, hoping to boost the tourism sector.

As of October 2019, travelers of different genders and unmarried visitors are allowed to stay in the same room.

In 2018, it is planned to build a theme park that will be the largest in the world and rival Walt Disney's in Florida.

The above policies were made in order to realize the Saudi Vision 2030 to release Saudi Arabia's economic dependence which is only sourced from oil sector revenue. Even so, the law of the Saudi Arabian government is based on Islamic law and the opinions of the scholars so that it greatly influences the policies made by the Saudi Arabian government, where new policies are made that cause social change because they legalize old policies. policies in the form of prohibitions for a long time.

### **LIPIA Student Responses**

From several LIPIA Jakarta students whom we offered to fill out a questionnaire for their response to the Halloween celebration in Riyadh, they regretted that the celebration was held in Riyadh with the assumption that the Saudi Arabian government could have done it accidentally because it saw the Saudis. Arab as a country that upholds the teachings



of Islam, although Riyadh is also not the moral foundation of Islam like Mecca and Medina, so it does not make us Saudi Arabia's scapegoats.

As human beings, some are straight and some are deviant, just like in Saudi Arabia, in Indonesia we often encounter things like this. Although it is a form of coincidence, Halloween is still a disaster from western culture with no clear purpose, so it must be abandoned because it is a form of *tasyabbuh bil kuffar* (resembling infidels). Even with celebrations, sharia itself has established two special holidays for Muslims, so Halloween in Riyadh is not a form of religious tolerance.

On the other hand, here we can see Saudi Arabia getting shaken and embarrassed by the abolition of the obligation of headscarves for Muslim women and holding music concerts, and women and men wearing *shar'i* clothing to enliven the Halloween feel, including destroying pictures of muslim clothes.

Several LIPIA students said that their friends who are students in Saudi Arabia stated that the activity on November 1 that night was not a Halloween celebration, but an annual routine celebration in Riyadh with various unique themes. rumor has it that it is a Halloween celebration of obscure origins. Even so, if the activity has no benefits then it should not be continued, if the aim is to improve the country's economy then there are many other benefit aspects that can be considered.

## **CONCLUSION**

Globalization has a major influence in the international world because it functions for the development of a country and its inhabitants from various aspects of life. Including one aspect is the cultural aspect from the west, such as Halloween which is a tradition from western culture which is carried out every year, including Riyadh which just this year celebrates it which reaps a lot of controversy because what we know is that Riyadh is a city in the country of Saudi Arabia which is very thick with Islamic law.

It was alleged that the Halloween celebrations in Riyadh at that time coincided with the annual celebrations that were regularly held in Riyadh with a theme that had nuances like Halloween, this caused a lot of controversy for Muslims in general, including among LIPIA Jakarta students themselves. As explained in the Islamic law, imitating and

celebrating western cultural traditions is the same as tasyabbuh bil kuffar because this celebration is not part of religious tolerance.

The media's allegation of this event is not entirely correct, because in order to realize Saudi Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia is advancing the tourism sector by holding the Riyadh Season 2022 activity which will be held on October 21 until the end of October to reach one million visitors with the theme "Beyond Imagination". gives the impression of modernity by being covered in various recreation, games, dining, drama, and international exhibitions.

Therefore, we as Muslims can follow the development of globalization with the condition that we do not go outside the limits of the Sharia. Like this Halloween which is celebrated in order to knit togetherness, if seen from its history, that right is tasyabbuh bil kuffar.

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