

Raja Ampat in Political Networks and Strategies of Sultan Nuku's War Against the Dutch Company Istiyanatul

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Abstract. This study aims to explain the relationship between Raja Ampat and the Tidore Sultanate before the era of Sultan Nuku. The paper discusses the causes of the conflict between Sultan Nuku and the Dutch Company in the XVIII-early nineteenth century. By research and discussion, it is clearly inform that before Nuku became tobe powerfull, the Tidore sultanate had contact with the area now known as Raja Ampat (then called Papua). Based on this relationship, when the VOC interfered in replacing the power holder to the throne of the Tidore sultanate, Sultan Nuku protested and moved out of Tidore island to Raja Ampat to form a war force from the area of influence of the Tidore sultanate. The strength of the troops that including the people of East Halmahera, the islands of Raja Ampat, and the island of Seram, were able to be mobilized to fight to reclaim the throne of the Tidore sultanate, which had previously been controlled by a leader appointed by the VOC as sultan as a measure of work, both in the Dutch bureaucracy and the indigenous bureaucracy.

Keywords: Network, Politics, Strategy, War, Culture

1 Introduction

Raja Ampat is one of the districts originating from the division of West Papua's Sorong district. Based on the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 26 of 2002, dated May 4, 2002, the Raja Ampat district was established at the end of 2003 and declared a new district. However, the Raja Ampat district government went into operation on September 16, 2005, with the administrative center located in Waisai City, South Waigeo District, approximately 59 kilometers from Sorong City. The geographical coordinates of Raja Ampat Regency are 2°25'N 4°25'LS and 130°-132E. Due to its geo-political and geo-economic location, the Raja Ampat archipelago plays a significant role as a region immediately adjacent to other lands. At the northernmost edge of the Raja Ampat archipelago is Fani Island, which is directly close to the Republic of Palau [1].

Raja Ampat is a recent district in Papua, yet it has a unique history. Raja Ampat is distinctive because it enters Papua's bird's head area from western Indonesia through the sea. Most of its territory consists of the sea and hundreds of islands. There are four big islands and 610 small islands in Raja Ampat. Raja Ampat is connected to the rest of the world by islands. Raja Ampat was more open to learning about trade and making changes than other coastal areas of Papua New

Guinea. Some of the people who were contacted were Seram, Tidore, and Ternate.

The Tidore sultanate significantly impacted people's lives. Especially those souths of the Raja Ampat archipelago because of how close it was to them. A relationship that started long before the Dutch Company had any power in Ternate, especially in Tidore, made it hard for Nuku to protect his economic interests and keep up the tradition of changing the leader of the Tidore sultanate.

The myth says that this relationship began when the legendary figure Gurabesi or Kurabesi traveled from Biak-Numfor to the islands in the western part of the bird's head. These islands are called "*sup I bab wa*" in the Biak-Numfor language, which means "island or land under the island of Biak." The myth was written down by Van der Leiden, who did research in the Raja Ampat Islands from 1979 to 1980. It was later put in the appendix Myth No. 5 of a paper called "The Raja Ampat Islands: A Mythological Interpretation [2]." People say that Kurabesi was a boy, the son of Pin Take's daughter from Wawage River on Waigeo Island. Kurabesi's ethic goes back and meets his uncle *fun Giwar* (king of the island of Waigeo) and his uncle's son, Marksopen. They synergize to help the King of Tidore fight against the King of Ternate. Kurabesi, on authority against the king of Ternate, married a Tidore princess named Boki Taiba and returned to Waigeo until his death in Wauyai.

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Kurabesi is the ancestor of the Raja Ampat people, particularly the Arfan-raja Salawati clan [3].

According to Van der Leden's stories, before Kurabesi arrived in Raja Ampat, there was a royal administration on four large islands, including Waigeo, with the king of Giwar in control (1987). It is also based on the legend that seven Waigeo eggs hatched and produced four kings. Giwar fun is the oldest or first order of brothers and sisters, Tusan fun is the second order, and Mustari fun is the third order; hence the three kings are linked. Four other brothers accompany them, including fun Kilimuri, who resides on Seram Island, and fun Sem, who has been converted into a spirit. Consequently, his residence is unclear; Pin Take (sixth child is a woman). The seventh brother was changed to stone and resides in the Wawage river (king's time), South Waigeo, to this day. According to the origin tale, the seven brothers originated from eggs discovered by Boki Deni, Alyab's wife, on the Wawage riverbanks. The eggs were initially intended for the spouse, Alyab. However, the wife protested his request, as they had already been carried home and stowed. Five of the seven eggs hatched into humans a few days later (four male and one female). One of the remaining two eggs hatched into a spirit or spirit, while the other failed to hatch and turned to stone [4].

This traditional power seems to have existed before European power. Then the arrival of The Europeans posed a challenge to their attempts to increase their dominance. According to Robidé van der Aa (1872), in the sixteenth century, the Sultan of Ternate allied with the kings of Papua, specifically in Vaigama (same as Waigama in Misol), Vaigue (same as Waigeo), Quibibi (same as Gebe or Kapiboi), and Umka (in Saonek), in order to fight together against foreign invaders (Portuguese). In 1537, however, Landvoogd (a regent) Portuguese Joao Fogoca was dispatched to the islands of Papua. (Raja Ampat Islands) and through his efforts, partly by persuasion and partly by force of war, defeated these kings and placed them under the sovereignty of Ternate [5].

The sixteenth-century conditions described before influenced the Raja Ampat region in the shape of a royal system, including the culture of the people, particularly in the southern portion of Raja Ampat. Nuku fought against Dutch colonial politics with the help of the people of Halmahera, Seram, and the Raja Ampat islands. However, the Dutch took over North Maluku (Ternate) and tried to take over Tidore, especially after Sultan Nuku's father was in charge.

Therefore, Raja Ampat became significant in the resistance of Sultan Nuku against the Dutch Company at the turn of the nineteenth century. The cluster of Raja Ampat islands facilitated Sultan Nuku's political and military operations against the Dutch Company. Sultan Nuku went from the islands east of Halmahera to the islands of Raja Ampat and then to the island of Seram. A policy and plan implemented by Sultan Nuku based on the social, cultural, economic, and political ties of the Tidore sultanate with those regions prior to the Portuguese, Spanish, VOC, and Dutch influence. In Indonesian history, the Tidore sultanate's network of relations against the Dutch Company's dominance has

gotten little attention in historiography. As a result, historical information is scarce or unknown to the general public, particularly Raja Ampat's inhabitants. This situation, among others, is responsible for the existence of Raja Ampat. As a result, the narrative on the relationship with North Maluku, particularly with Sultan Nuku of Tidore, is fragmentary or insufficient.

The gaps in the historiography of local and national Indonesian history regarding the relationship mentioned above between Sultan Nuku in Tidore and Raja Ampat. It is deemed essential to research and write about this topic to broaden the horizons of the generation of heirs so they can comprehend the history of past problems as a foundation for wisely traversing the present into the future. In a scientific study, it is crucial to bring up the historical event involving Raja Ampat and other locations (Seram Island) involving the resistance of Sultan Nuku against the Dutch Company. Raja Ampat in the Political Network and Strategy of Sultan Nuku Against the Dutch Company: A Study of Maritime History in the Context of Culture, Politics, and War is the title of this research. This title demonstrates that in the context of this event, Raja Ampat was not only merely a passive area of influence but also played an active role in the events of Sultan Nuku against the Dutch Company at the turn of the nineteenth century. This function is examined and discussed in this work.

2 Research Methods

This study uses the "structural" approach from Lloyd (1993), which combines the event approach, namely unique things in historical events—with universal things in a structural approach [5], using the theory of explaining historical facts from events. There is the theory of "Collective Action" by Tilly (1978) [6].

The method in this study uses the historical method according to Marc Bloch, which consists of four stages, namely: *first*, problem formulation and historical observation; *second*, conducting historical criticism or data testing; *third*, generalizing and or categorizing data according to the problem; and *fourth*, conducting a causal search (analysis) of the problems written [7], which are related to the social environment of the Sultans of Nuku and Raja Ampat, as well as forms of action against the power of the Dutch Company which tried to control the sultanate of Tidore in the early nineteenth century. Thus, the data collection technique was to study archives and literature related to the problem.

The result data analysis technique applies historical criticism, generalization, and categorization of data/facts then analyzes and interprets facts [8]. In other words, in this section, an internal criticism technique or content criticism is applied to any data obtained from the sources used.

3 Results and Discussion

The politics and strategy of Sultan Nuku's war against the Netherlands in the XVIII-early XIX centuries can be understood and explained from the aspect of the

composition of Nuku's war power; Nuku's strategy of struggle; the result of the Nuku Struggle carried out with the People; and the cause of Nuku and the people against the Dutch Company (VOC). Each of these aspects is described as follows.

The intervention of the Dutch Company (VOC) in changing the throne of the Tidore sultanate was shown, among other things, by their support for Patra Alam to become the sultan of Tidore. With this support, Patra Alam felt strong. Therefore, on July 2, 1780, he suddenly ordered a guard to storm the houses of Kamaludin and Nuku. In a short time, all belongings and other possessions were confiscated, and houses were burned to the ground. In that incident, Kamaludin was arrested and handed over by Patra Alam to Cornabe. Then he and his family were sent to Batavia. Meanwhile, Nuku managed to escape without taking any of his belongings with him, and only the clothes he had on his body, namely "a shirt and an old pair of pants" [9]. According to Katoppo (1957), Patra Alam's actions were an answer to the opposition Nuku party, which dared to challenge its policies. Some letters are satire to Nuku, for example, a letter dated July 14, 1780, to the prince and bobato and an invitation letter at the address "Serie Paduka Mulia Kacil Syaifudin," which is intended to invite Nuku to attend the inauguration ceremony of Patra Alam as the Sultan of Tidore. On 17 July 1780, in the governorate in the fortress of the orange palace in Ternate [10].

The invitation to Nuku to attend the inauguration ceremony of Patra Alam as the Sultan of Tidore seemed to be a Dutch ploy to capture Nuku because, during the raid on July 2, 1780, he managed to escape with his family and followers. However, when the ceremony took place, Nuku was in a *kora-kora* between the islands of Weda and Patani with his wife and son Abdul Gafar accompanied by several loyal companions, such as his secretary Ismail Kacil Lieutenant Waludin Nuku's cousin, and Alferisi Suma. *Korakora* that Nuku boarded under the command of Bobato Hayrum, Gimelaha Toloa, who also managed to escape when Patra Alam troops invaded his country.

A few days before the attack on July 2, 1780, Nuku had sent his envoy, Kacil Masa, who had been Tidore's *jogugu* since Jamaludin was the sultan, to bring news of worsening political developments in Tidore to the *sangajis* in Halmahera, Gebe and the kings. Papua (now Raja Ampat). The core of the news conveyed was the notification of the dismissal and exile of Sultan Jamaludin by the Dutch Company and the fraudulent appointment of Patra Alam as the sultan of Tidore. In addition, resistance propaganda must be everywhere to restore legitimate power in Tidore. Kacil Nuku will lead the fight, and soon Nuku himself will arrive in Patani to negotiate the resistance organization with the *sangajis* and kings. Therefore, to the *sangaji-sangaji*, *kimelaha-kimelaha*, kings, and *ngofamanjira-ngofamanjira*, please think carefully about whom he will obey, Patra Alam or Nuku, who, according to law and lineage, has the right to the throne and crown of Tidore. Those who sided with the legitimate power under the banner of Nuku against the Dutch imperialists should come with several *kora-kora* complete with

people, weapons, and supplies to Patani within six weeks [11]. From Nuku's message to the *sangaji*, king, *kimelaha*, and *ngofamanjira* above, it seems that he had a clue about the occurrence of the capture of Kamaludin and himself. Still, he had managed to escape into the areas of influence of the Tidore sultanate.

As a form of acceptance of Nuku's message, on September 4, 1780, 90 *kora-kora* were gathered. First, half the army of Salawati (Raja Ampat) was led by the king himself because Salawati was very famous for her loyalty and obedience to the legitimate Sultan of Tidore. Next, Patani with 20 *kora-kora*, then Misool (Raja Ampat)-the king sent 14 boats led by the captain of the sea; Gebe, Waigama, and Waigeo (Raja Ampat) each sent between 3 to 4 *kora-kora* boats, because they were less able. The Vedas and Maba will decide their position later. Still, the two countries are not hostile to Nuku. Still, they do not dare to help openly for fear that Patra Alam and the Company will take revenge by burning and destroying their villages [12].

The arrival of Nuku supporters around East Halmahera to Papua (Raja Ampat) gives us an idea of how he began to build a resistance network against the Dutch Company by using the people in the areas of influence of the Tidore sultanate since time immemorial. Moreover, the preparation in designing his first tactics shows that Nuku is an accomplished organizer, sane mind, strong will, and courageous task force. The plans and arrangements for the first tactic with its supporters are as follows: (1) The news agency is regulated as well as possible so that news from outside, especially from Tidore and Ternate, arrives as quickly as possible at its headquarters, on the other hand, so that all orders are broadcast and received by interested parties appropriately. *Kora-kora* quickly provided to carry news in a relay, for that requested cooperation and assistance from the captains of ships from Makassar, Bugis, Java, and others, who can be trusted, as well as assistance for *giup-giup* and *rorehe-rorehe* fishing in waters of Maluku and Papua; (2) Reconnaissance or espionage: consisting of several people who are genuinely believed to be sent to the cities of Tidore and Ternate; they entered the cities as a base for Makassar and Bugis trading ships; his job, is to get secret news that is useful to Nuku, from his sources. To that end, some secret spies rented themselves out at the governor's house as assistants in the work of the enslaved people. They also bring a secret to certain people to make a fifth colony in the cities of Ternate and Tidore. Famous for carrying out their secret duties are Serangnoli and Gonone; (3) Extirpation on the part of the Company must be resisted and prevented with all its might; (4) He sent missions to East Seram and the islands to the southeast of Seram, to warn these countries and islands of their 150-year struggle to defend their independence; Nuku will soon arrive to lead them in the struggle. The delegation was tasked with seeking relations with British ships. If they met to negotiate on trade, some delegations could take the ships to Nuku's headquarters and at least ask for help in the form of firearms and ammunition. England was at war with the Dutch (1780-1784). The rest of the group sought contact with the Mangindanao and Sulu pirates to ask for help and to ally

themselves against and harm the Dutch. (5) Patani was made a strong defense; the existing stone fortress in a dilapidated state was repaired and armed. Operational plans, for the time being, are implemented based on the comparison of available forces, with the primary objective being to recapture East Seram; For this reason, it is necessary to arrange a strong force so that the attention of the Company and Patra Alam is diverted from the operation.

Meanwhile, several small *kora-kora* troops had to riot in the Company, Bacan, and Ternate areas. The Vedas, Mada, Gebe, and Waigeo, who could not be defended if attacked by a relatively strong army, were ordered to be lenient towards the enemy, avoiding battles as much as possible to save human resources and tools. *Kora-kora* for the mission is separated; To prevent destruction and carry out piracy, two *kora-kora* were appointed, one troop serving in the waters of North Halmahera and another consisting of 14 *kora-kora* under the commander of Kapitan Laut Misool serving in the waters of Bacan and South Halmahera. Another order is to seize firearms wherever possible. Then the place for regrouping was set at the bay of Gebe island, behind the island of Fau. Prisoners of war consisting of Dutch people should not be killed but taken to Salawati [13].

After the first strategic plan and Nuku's orders were issued and implemented, Nuku departed with his main army to East Seram via Gebe, Salawati, and Misool. In various places, inspections were carried out, and the will to fight was strengthened. Not in a long time, all of East Seram, the former territory of the Tidore Sultanate, was restored, and Nuku was put under its control without any significant resistance from the Dutch Company. Considering Nuku's tactics, the Governor of Cornabe and the sultan of Patra Alam also did not remain silent. They also arranged a delegation consisting of the Company and Tidore people, who departed from Ternate around the Tidore areas in Halmahera and the islands of Papua or the Raja Ampat Islands. That is so that *sangaji-sangaji*, *kimelaha-kimelaha*, and kings be informed of the death of Sultan Gayjira and the inauguration of Patra Alam as the sultan of Tidore. Thus, regional heads and their people were subject to the orders of the new sultan, loyal and obedient in upholding the "sovereign" decree of Tidore [14].

However, Cornabe and Patra Alam did turn out to have been preceded by Nuku. The activities carried out by Governor Cornabe, through his destruction and mission, caused a warm war to erupt with successive victories and defeats on both sides. However, the year 1781 began with a victory on the Nuku side. Misool's *kora-kora* troops who served in the Seram Sea managed to ambush the company's extirpation troops on the island of Obi south of Bacan. As a result, more than half of the Company's soldiers died in battle, some fled into the forest, and some fell into the hands of the Misool as captives, among them officers Bartholomew and Sergeant Eck. According to the war plans, the prisoners and the booty were transported to Salawati [15].

After Cornabe heard reports about the invasion of the island of Obi, which since 1683 had been "owned" by the Company (purchased from the Sultan of Bacan),

and the fate of Bartholomew and his friends, he became aware that by starting a "hostile," Nuku had declared war on the Company. Since then, the Dutch have branded Nuku as Prins Rebel, a rebel prince. As a result, a fleet consisting of several company ships and *kora-kora* from Patra Alam, complete with people and equipment, was assigned to free the Dutch officers and soldiers held captive in Salawati and to punish the kings of Salawati and Misool because they committed "sea piracy."

During the fleet assignment, Patra Alam advised not to use force and force of arms to free the captives. Still, the captives were redeemed with goods, cloth, and cash, because neither the king of Salawati nor the king of Misool should be punished. First, however, Nuku must be captured and exterminated because he is the cause of the rebellion. Based on Patra Alam's advice, Cornabe assigned Mualim Post with a ship loading the redeeming goods to Salawati. When Post arrived in Samate, he invited Salawati's people to negotiate on the ship to determine the value of each prisoner. Still, Salawati's people asked her to go ashore with the exchanged goods. Post then went ashore with 29 of his men, who were later captured and taken prisoner [16].

Meanwhile, the people still on the ship and witnessed the incident immediately cut off the anchor rope and spread the sails to escape as quickly as possible, let alone being chased by several tens of *kora-kora* which suddenly appeared from behind the growing trees. At the beach's border. At that time, Nuku, who was on his way to East Seram through these areas, immediately ordered not to kill the Dutch prisoners but to use his strength as best he could.

So, the captives were forced to work at the *kora-kora* shipyard without pay and were only given one day's food. After a few months, they were handed over to *Sangaji Wakre* (Waigeo in Raja Ampat) and then to the Vedas. The Vedas took them back to Ternate. What did Nuku mean by releasing his captive? That is, for the prisoners to tell in Ternate everything they saw, that Nuku's influence was so significant on the islands of Papua; as well as testifying that Nuku's envoys to Mangindanao brought letters and gifts from the Sultan of Sulu; a war hat (a bronze helmet); a scepter of ebony overlaid with gold; a silver box; a banner; a drum and a jar of gunpowder. Nuku also did this as a policy so that Waigeo, who had not yet determined his firm stance, was considered Patra Alam still obedient to the sultan of Tidore. In addition, the captives would bring news that Nuku intended to attack Bacan, Ternate, and Tidore not as a rumor from the captain of a merchant ship but as news that the Dutch themselves brought so that "the source of the news is reliable."

From Nuku's actions, it turns out that it has sown the seeds of division between Cornabe and Patra Alam, where since the Mualim Post-incident, Cornabe has placed prejudice or began to suspect Patra Alam. There is a form of war of nerves from Nuku's tactic. At the same time, he strengthens his position and defense in Seram, using the solid *kora-kora* force of Salawati. Nuku also visited *Waru*, *Rarakit*, *Guliguli*, *Kilimuri*, *Keffing*, *Slide*, *Gorong*, *Tior*, and *Temer*, where the people recognized the sovereign Nuku. Next, Nuku

assigned a small army of *kora-kora* to investigate the possibility of building shipyards on the islands of Kai and Aru because the area was known for having suitable types of wood for making *kora-kora* and also for having clever artisans. What Nuku did was because the Kai islands until 1767, including the territory of the Tidore kingdom, and Nuku had the right to restore him to re-enter his kingdom.

Meanwhile, areas such as Waru, Rarakit, Guliguli, Keffing, and Gorong were fortified with stone forts and mines. Trade began to be carried out freely as before the rule of the Dutch Company in Maluku. In Rarakit, Nuku built his residence, and he arranged the instruments of government with the help of Jogugu Ngusu and his diligent and loyal secretary Ismail.

From Nuku's apparent strong position, escorted by troops consisting of Papuan and Alifuru warriors under the leadership of Tidore officers and surrounded by a pioneering force consisting of 400 Tidoreans, Hulubalangs and Marine Captains, non-commissioned officers and officers, kings, the rich and patih, *sangaji* and *kimelaha*, *kadli*, priests, law and *ngofamanjira*, Nuku was canceled or confirmed by all present on behalf of the people of the areas he represented, became the sultan of Papua and Seram, with the title "Sri Maha Tuan Sultan Muhammad Amirudin Syaifudin Syah, Kaicil Paparangan." "Kaicil Paparangan" means prince of war, warlord, or commander in chief. Nuku's coronation as the sultan of Papua and Seram means that the people in these areas have been determined to openly support Nuku's struggle to reclaim the throne of the Tidore kingdom.

Let us look at the map of Maluku and Irian (now-Papua). The islands and areas that the Nuku controlled at that time, namely: Patani (East Halmahera), Batanta, Salawati, Waigama and Misool (Raja Ampat), East Seram, and the islands in the southeast to the islands of Kai (Maluku), and West Irian (Papua mainland), it can be understood why Nuku calls himself with the title "Sultan of Papua and Seram." In addition, it can also be seen that the Nuku kingdom consisted of parts of the territory of three Dutch Company governorates, commonly called "*de drie Oostersche Provintien of Gouvernemenen*," namely Ternate, Ambon, and Banda." However, in the struggle Nuku and the people have to deal with four opponents, each of whom has his war power and can defeat Nuku; what is more, the four unite their strength against Nuku. However, in reality, this is not the case, considering the opinion of the central government of the Dutch Company in Batavia (governor-general and the Council of the Indies), who said they did not understand how Prins Nuku could invade South Maluku and establish his kingdom in Seram. It is also said figuratively that "only under the kitchen smoke from the houses of the governor of Ambon and the governor of Banda" Nuku was able to build his empire there.

Meanwhile, the governor of Ternate-Cornabe, reported to Batavia that he could no longer do anything about Nuku because Nuku was no longer in his territory. Cornabe's report to Batavia indicates that there were operations against Nuku, but most of them failed. In addition, since the war in 1781, Patra Alam and

Cornabe, despite carrying out successful joint operations, for example, Patani reinforced by Nuku, were captured. The Vedas and Maba automatically surrendered. This success was perceived differently. Cornabe saw it as a successful operation, while Patra Alam said peace and security had not recovered as long as Nuku had not been caught. Patra Alam's opinion became justified because Nuku came to his power in Raja Ampat. When Cornabe operated on Salawati, his envoy was taken hostage. He continued to move to East Seram and was crowned by the people as "Sultan of Papua and Seram."

4 Conclusion

The following conclusions can be drawn from the discussion regarding the problems studied on the topic. (1) The composition of the Nuku war forces reflects the strength in a modern war environment, as it has a fleet of *kora-kora* warships for various tasks, secret services, escort troops, and combat troops. In every area of influence of the sultanate of Tidore, there were trained and educated people for various tasks. (2) Nuku's war strategy was to encompass every Bloodless revolution area. (4) full support of people in the region of control of the sultanate of Tidore due to the treatment of the Dutch Company (VOC), which had usurped their rights in economic, political, and cultural spheres. The Dutch Company's (VOC) participation in changing leadership on the throne of the Tidore kingdom in Soasiu was counterproductive since Nuku was resolved to struggle to regain control of their territory.

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