American Press and Decolonization Processes of Indonesia and Indo-China

Abstrak:

Editorial attitudes on self-determination, colonialism and the local nationalis leaders’ ability to govern expressed in American newspapers toward Indonesia and Indo-China in 1945 to 1947 are shaped by national interests. Using a thematic content analysis of editorials that appeared in the New York Times and the Washington Post, this study is based on three assumptions: that the idea of self-determination has traditionally been one of many values American generally champion, that colonialism has been one of many values Americans generally oppose, and that Americans shared with the Dutch and French a view of non-western nationalist leaders as not being ready to govern themselves. Based on these assumptions, two hypotheses are proposed: the two newspapers’ editorials would support the idea of self-determination and would not support colonialism, and they would not support the idea that the Indonesian and Indo-Chinese nationalist leaders were able to maintain peace, stability and order in their own countries. The data found support the argument that editorial attitudes regarding international issues are shaped by national interests and cultural values. In dealing with the international events, the editorials favored Indonesia and Indo-China when discussing the idea of self-determination and colonialism, but they favored the Dutch and French when discussing the ability to govern.

Keyword:

American press, Indonesia, Indo-China, self-government, colonialism

Daftar Pustaka: