

THE ROLE OF SEA TRANSPORTATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE SPREAD OF ISLAM FOLLOWING THE SPICE TRADING TRACK FROM MALAKA STRAITS TO MALUKU ISLANDS

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyzes the role and influence of transportation on the spread of Islam following the spice trade route, especially from the Malacca Strait to the Maluku Islands. It is recognized that the existence of transportation in the spread of Islam is an important factor, but what kind of role and influence that it brings specifically on the spread of Islam in the past in Malaysia and Indonesia or in this study is called the Archipelago, has not been done much. This study aims to develop thinking about the role of sea transportation and its influence on Islamic spread following the Malacca Strait spice trade route of the Maluku Islands. This study uses a qualitative method, with an ethnographic approach that can be categorized as part of the cultural and historical history of Islam in Indonesia and Malaysia. Field data was collected in Malacca City, Palembang, Jakarta and Ambon-Maluku City. In addition to field data, written sources are also available. From various interviews with informants in Malay and Indonesia, it was found that the spread of Islam occurred along with the spice trade activities using sea transportation media. In the context of Malacca and Maluku, the existence of Islam was greatly influenced by Arab, Persian, Chinese and Gujarab Indian traders. Malacca in Malay became a large and active trading city in Southeast Asia until the 15th century, while cities and ports in the Maluku Island that supplied spices, especially cloves and nutmegs were Jailolo, Ternate and Tidore in North Mal, and Huamual, Hitu, Jasira Hatuhaha and the Banda islands in Central Maluku. This study found that the spice trade route in the archipelago actually occurred from Malacca through Palembang (Sumatra), Batavia (Java) and continuing to Ternate (North Maluku) and along other regions in Central Maluku such as Seram, Ambon, Saparua, Haruku and Banda.

Keywords: Transportation, Islamic Spread, Spice Lane, Malacca, Maluku