

Chapter I

Introduction

A. Background

Punk as a subculture has been adapted by teenagers in the world not only as a musical spirit, but also as an ideology and lifestyle. Punk is a cultural heritage from the west, which was originally engaged in music, but later, punk has become a global identity that represents radical teenagers who have anti-establishment and anti-government visions. Punk is etymologically derived from English, namely "Public United not Kingdom", then shortened to P.U.N.K, meaning a unit / community outside the kingdom / government. Punk first appeared in England in the 60's (Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, n.d.).

Punk emerged bringing a new spirit of music-loving teenagers at that time, namely a group of musicians who appreciated rock music but with limited skills and capital. The characteristic of punk music is sharp guitar distortion with fast irregular drumbeats. Punk music is also known as the use of simple accords because it only consists of 2-3 accords. However, every time the punk stage acts, it always stands out because of its attractive, reckless, even brutal characters. In addition to being attractive, punk is also known for their quirky make-up, such as Indian-style mohawk pieces, skull-printed t-shirts, jackets with various kinds of embroidered and metal accessories, iron or metal necklaces, full body tattoos, boots, piercing, and even facial make-up. For them, the costume is a symbol of the spirit of punk, which is synonymous with anti-establishment, anarchism, vandalism, anti-socialism, low-class criminals, and the neglected. (Setyanto, 2015)

Even though it started with music, punk gradually turned into a lifestyle filled with views and ideologies, this was due to the notion that excitement of appearance or form must be accompanied by excitement of thought (idea/content). Their music is full of socio-political

views which are finally embedded in their daily lives. In the 1970s, Britain experienced an economic crisis that resulted in the development of capitalism, which has made the British Government exploit, oppress and suppress the working class, for the sake of economic recovery efforts (Pramdani, 2016). Punk ideology was then born as a form of dissatisfaction with the systems and regulations prevailing in England, as well as a form of working class ideas and resistance against the government that implements the capitalist system, by carrying out various acts of exploitation, oppression, and discrimination against industrial workers. (Mufli, 2017)

This started from the dislike of Queen Elizabeth II's government and the monarchy system which is considered to be the cause of economic inequality towards the working class. The monarchy system is often considered to only benefit the aristocracy. Then, this proceeded to the Margaret Thatcher Government with a policy of burdening the workers or working class. During the early days of office, the British economy was unstable, inflation soared by 25% and the number of unemployed also increased. One of the steps taken by Thatcher was reducing the budget issued by the government by reducing labor wages (Kontan News, 2016). This then resulted in a large number of people in England who had to live on the streets due to economic pressures. This then led to the birth of a new culture which is commonly referred to as the Public United Not Kingdom or Punk.

In the 1990s, when the electronic media became very advanced, the existence of the punk community began to be hit by the media and was sharply highlighted around the world, of course this made punk increasingly popular so that it became a global subculture. Many teenagers started dressing up in punk style and going down the streets. Punk gets more and more from year to year thanks to successful punk bands such as Rancid from California and Sex Pistols from England. Their global presence made punk a worldwide trend. Furthermore, these punkers also influenced movements in many countries with these ideologies. Not only influence has a social impact, but they are also trying to make changes to the politics in their

country and in this paper, the author would like to discuss how Punk influenced and became way of thinking for some people in the United States.

The rebelliousness, alienation, rage, and personal, societal, and political dissatisfaction expressed in punk songs are sometimes confrontational, even insulting. Punk was a reaction to a number of crises in the 1970s, which followed the violent and revolutionary 1960s and witnessed the end of the postwar economic boom as well as deindustrialization processes in many Western countries, including the United States. Many American punks, like their British counterparts, attacked their society and culture, often in blatantly aggressive and unpleasant ways. However, American punk never gained the same level of popularity or acceptability as earlier types of political popular music (for example, protest songs from the 1960s and early 1970s). Punk critiques were generally based on such principles as personal freedom and political equality; consequently, American punks denounced their country for failing to achieve its own purported values. Punk has evolved into a lifestyle and social movement for many people in the United States since then. (Brown, 2020)

Punk in United States is considered the most influential punk culture. With the spread of Punk throughout the world, elements of Punk's belief and new purpose entered the Punk movement. For some Punks, the Punk movement is more than a hint of rebellion. Punk is a network for young people around the world who care about politics. Punk is also a forum for people to lead social change, striving to eliminate the power of capitalism which is considered a source of oppression that must be controlled so that social justice can be achieved properly (Joseph Heath, 2009).

Various examples of forms of resistance carried out by American Punk activists include in the George W. Bush era, when the 'Punk Voter' Slaters 'Rock Against Bush' Tour was held, from September 18 to October 9, 2004, in various cities. in the United States, followed by other great punk musicians, which aims to provide education that is expected to build public awareness so

as not to vote for George W. Bush on the day of the United States presidential election in 2004. Previously on April 20, 2004, Punk musicians have also released a compilation album which contains songs as a form of protest against the administration of President George W. Bush, called the compilation album 'Rock Against Bush' Vol. 1, and followed by 26 famous punk bands in the US (PunkNews.Org, 2004).

The reason why the author wants to write and discuss the problems that exist in the Trump administration is because in this era Punk as a social movement began to be active again in criticizing politics. It was during the Trump administration's era that the Punk movement began to be massive and vocal again to voice its opinions against Trump. One example of a problem in this era is that since Trump came to power, Neo-Fascist/Nazi and racist groups in the US have had the courage to hold open meetings or marches. Most recently, the group's march in Charlottesville ended up clashing and causing casualties. However, on the other hand, resistance to these groups has also intensified, especially those initiated by anti-fascist groups or "Antifa" and the punk community. The Antifa group was actually born thanks to hardcore punk music, their goal is to fight their acts of hatred and violence that can destroy humanity. With the rise of Neo-fascists/Nazis in the United States and support from Trump by calling the Antifa group a terrorist movement that threatens sovereignty (Lipstadt, 2020). This is certainly a problem and interesting to discuss. Therefore, the author wants to talk more about this, about how Punk as a social movement criticizes this in different ways and how they try to counter and influence society.

The author also wants to give perspective to people that the Punk sub-culture has something important to social and political struggles. In the author's opinion, why is this topic is important to discuss is because the role of the Punk community that can be as a medium of criticism of government that is independent. Therefore, the author is interested in researching about the role of Punk as a media and political criticism of the government in the United States during the Donald Trump era. Punks are often seen as a person or community who is disturbing and useless

in because of their troubling existence. They are considered to have no clear direction in life, even though the emergence of Punk itself is due to something important for the surrounding community namely, to fight injustice. From the ideology they adhere to, how they achieve their goals, to what effect they have on social and political affairs it is quite interesting to discuss.

The beginning of Punk's appearance was from the United Kingdom and we can also see examples of what influences they gave to United Kingdom at that time. They are fighting government injustice against the lower middle class in their own unique way. Based on the background described above, the problem with this research is on how the role of Punk in criticizing the socio-political reality as a determinant of their attitude as social beings and political participation as what Punk does in exercising their influence as a minority subculture against the political system in the United States on Donald Trump's era? This is relevant in the context of International Relations as this topic discusses social and political issues. Therefore, the author wants to discuss the topic further. Moreover, this topic will most likely also provide additional knowledge for International Relations students about how a punk can be a media of criticism.

B. Research Question

How did the Punk as social critics in the United States work to fight the Neo Fascism/Nazi in Trump's Era?

C. Theory or Concept

1. *Social Movement Theory*

Social movement theory has been known since the 1970s. One of the figures who popularized the concept of social movements at that time was Goffman. Goffman describes this theory as a movement capable of overthrowing power. Social movement theory was born as part of the development of mobilization theory. The concept was developed from the idea of how to generate an appeal that affects the movement of the community, the response and

support from the media and how the community responds. Gathering power together with the aim of fighting the elites, authorities or other opposing parties. This resistance turns into a social movement when it is supported by strong social networks and cultural resonances and symbols of action that lead to continuous interaction with the opposing side. Social movements are a response to people's dissatisfaction with the spread of values that are not in accordance with the wishes of the public. Usually arises from an indication of injustice.

Where in social movements involve members, opponents and the people at large. Social Movement can be a force in changing the pattern of society. Actors or movement agents in social groups become important catalysts or pioneers to have a strategic position. In social movements, actors are the spearhead of the movements carried out. Parson and Shils place action as a representation of the interaction of actors. Social movements can also be interpreted as a protest against concepts that are considered negative.

One example is the protest by socialist supporters against capitalism. Social movements can turn into established organizations with bureaucratic characteristics. However, social movements are different from formal organizations and interest groups such as associations. Social movements can develop covering various aspects of community life. This movement can be inserted in economic, social, cultural and political activities. The development of social movements brought social movements to become more focused on utilizing the political aspect. This aspect is considered to be the most appropriate alternative in order to obtain its objectives. (Pamela E. Oliver) Therefore, the concept or theory of this social movement will help me to answer the questions in this research because Punk is included in a social movement which focuses on changing or criticizing a government policy that is considered unwise.

2. Theory of Political communication

studies the link between communication and politics or the methodological bridge between the disciplines of communication and politics. However, if we look at various literatures,

political communication has become a separate study since it was recognized by the International Communication Association scientific organization along with other divisions, such as the division of information systems, interpersonal communication, mass communication, organizational communication, intercultural communication, instructional communication and health communication.

In simple terms, political communication is communication that involves political messages and political actors, or is related to power, government, and government policies. With this understanding, as an applied science, political communication is not new. Political communication can also be understood as communication between "ruling" and "ruled". Communicating politics without concrete political action has actually been done by anyone: students, lecturers, the community and so on. It's no wonder that there are those who call Political Communication a neologism, that is, a science that is actually nothing more than a mere term. In practice, political communication is very thick in everyday life. Because, in their daily activities, not a single human being does not communicate, and sometimes they are trapped in the analysis and study of political communication.

Political communication is the activity of messaging people who carry out political activities, in the form of influencing and stimulating others to carry out political activities, both at the level of relations between the superstructure and infrastructure. The message takes place to keep up with changes and developments in the desired information in society. The actor or political communicator and can also be called as a political participant can understand that the content, purpose and desire of the political message conveyed is to influence and shape public opinion. (Adiyana Slamet, n.d.)

D. Hypothesis

Based on the theory or concept that the author has written above, the Punk Movement as Social critics in the United States work to fight against the Neo-Fascism/Nazi by criticize

through initiating action as well as through the music they create. Antifa's activists as the act of social critics and they also use record labels, zines (a magazine for the hardcore punk community), and musical performance stages as a medium for coordinating movements.

E. Research Objective

The purpose of this study is to add insight to the author and readers and to find out how the efforts made by the Punk community to influence social and political thinking in the United States. As for this research, it will provide the outputs obtained by the Punk community itself.

F. Scope of Research

The author gives the limitations of the research in 2017-2021. It was chosen in 2017 because the beginning of Trump's presidential term was in 2017, while 2021 is the last year in which Trump serves as president of the United States. However, if there is anything related to the issue outside of Trump's term as president the author will mention a few outside of that year if there is still relevance to the thesis being discussed.

G. Research Methodology

The research method utilized was a qualitative method, which is a type of study that focuses on the examination of non-numerical data without relying on statistical formulae. Data collecting procedures are carried out in the meanwhile through library research. Data is gathered from a variety of sources, including books, journals, newspapers, and the internet.

H. Systematics of Writing

Systematic writing in this paper will be divided into four chapters in the following order:

Chapter 1 : In this chapter contains the background of the problem, the foundation of the theory, the hypothesis, the research objective, the research methods, scope of research, and systematics of writing or outline.

Chapter 2 : in this chapter is a profile of the punk sub-culture and its development to highlight government policies that represent the ideology of Neofascism in the era of Donald Trump.

Chapter 3 : Discusses Subculture Punk strategy to achieve their goal of fighting fascism that developed in Trump's era based on hypothesis.

Chapter 4 : This chapter contains a closing, where the researcher will provide conclusions from the analyst on the data that has been processed and studied in this study.