

## The Role of Film: 'Tora! Tora! Tora!' and 'Pearl Harbor' in Affecting Indonesian Society's Public Opinion (Case Study: Pacific War 1937 - 1945)

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**Abstract:** *Film is a reflection of a national culture that describes various aspects of social life, reality, and lifestyle. In this case, film can be a tool or effective media in influencing the mind of global society. For example, Hollywood movie products that has luckily anesthetize the mind of global society, especially Indonesian that are easily influenced. Many films product are labelled as controversy, but the author took the parameter by identifying in detail the history of Pacific War through film "Pearl Harbor" and "Tora! Tora! Tora!" by comparison. The research analyses the creation of public opinion of Indonesian society regarding the comprehension of the Pacific War between Japan and the United States of America, after watching and comparing both movies. The spread of public opinion in film is sometimes not realized as the effect of a power instrument by soft-diplomacy. The power could be a powerful milestone for a nation to be seen by any other nations, in terms of culture, social, politic and so forth. This research generates a fairly good response from several respondents who were interviewed statistically, related to their comprehension of the Pacific War history while it's viewed through the film as media. The majority of respondents 'agree' that the film is a very effective media for creating public opinion in society and the purpose is to simplify any complexity of audience thought for an factual event, especially in understanding the case study of the history of the Pacific War.*

**Keywords:** *Film, Japan, America, Public Opinion, International Communication*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Amid the rampant world of globalization, the presence of media is ubiquitous and inseparable. Media in its overall sense is the only transformation tool to convey messages from messages producers to consumers. We can imagine if life in this world there is no means of broadcasting news, newspapers, films, music, photos and others that as a whole requires visualization. Without media's presence, a situation can only be known within short period of time and limited area, let alone by the international community. Even today, the rapid development of information-communication technology, almost all events in this world widespread in a matter of minutes or even seconds.

Talking about technology, developed countries like the United States and countries in Europe has dominated the progress. Starting from the complicated war events in the past to the importance of communication during the war and post war period, helped create the term "media imperialism", where this concept is used to describe the running of modern communication processes in forming, maintaining, and expanding the system of domination and dependence globally. Starting from print media, electronic images, or sound recordings, Western films, television programs, pop music, books and magazines rose to influence traditional culture which can only be described as something revolutionary. There is no hesitation that the global growth of western communication media by researchers is seen as a reflection of the imperialist expansion of Western capitalist society in general. In other words, the development of the world at this time is indeed being directed to the culture of the masses who are both oriented towards the West.

Visualization media has now become a trend or tendency that is no stranger to urban communities around the world. Ranging from tools as small as watches, mobile phones, radio to television and widescreen cinema have brought up visual features that are interesting for the development of human reason, so that they slowly contribute to creating a new culture with the concept of visual communication. One of them is the United States Hollywood films accompanied by special effects tricks that are able to anesthetize the minds of the global community regarding the greatness of the superpower state of the United States being capable of creating an audio-visual concept in a film package. The facts show that the greatness of the popularity of American movies is widely regarded as the result of a combination of creativity, quality of production, distribution effectiveness,

and intensity of current promotions that exceed all forms of popular culture in the world. Therefore, it is not surprising that American films are still a choice for movie lovers, including in Indonesia.

In 1976 the profits of the export of American films and television programs amounted to 700 dollars. Two thirds of the total profits come from films. This fact certainly results in a 'love and hate' relationship between the world community and the United States. Indirectly, people who condemn the broad influence of the American mass culture, actually embraced everything that came from America (clothing, music, entertainment, or anything made by America).

This phenomenon absolutely attracts the attention of the author to examine more about how Hollywood in creating movies that certainly have a big influence on film lovers. Because of the complexity of the research literature, the author took the title "The Role of Film 'Tora! Tora! Tora!' And Pearl Harbor 'in affecting the Public Opinion of Indonesian Society (Pacific War Case Study 1937-1945) "which is interspersed with a comparison of two epic film titles from the Pacific War background for further investigation. The importance of conducting this research specifically is to open the mind of the Indonesian people with an analogy that if the United States can create or produce historical themed films with all the changes in facts and conflicts in them, why do non-western countries like Indonesia with all other advantages not far different from America can only be influenced, utilized, functioned and exploited by other developed and developing countries.

In the smallest scope of the media, for example, Indonesian society is easily influenced by the influence of films that tries to distort the facts about the United States with Islamic countries in the Middle East, so that the Indonesian Muslim community becomes disappointed with the actions of the United States on any policies and against Iraq, Afghanistan, the Palestine, and so on. But behind all the facts and circumstances, the desire for Indonesian audiences to be able to watch quality films should be taken seriously, as the United States does is one of the reasons why they remain and prefer American films.

Another assumption about the strength of the influence of Hollywood-produced films is that Hollywood filmmakers were not at all aware that they were indirectly becoming a large share contributing sector in filling the coffers of Hollywood networks; where the coffers are flowing to perpetuate American Zionism against Islam in Palestine. In addition, several war films have experienced remaking due to success achieved in previous years such as films about Nazi, World War I and II conflicts, Pacific War, and other colossal wars. This certainly provides a 'new point of view' for ordinary people who do not know about authentic historical facts, whether with special effects or the diversion of intrigues that are more detailed and more focused on their cultivation, so that the community concludes a new perception and it immediately removes the essence of the facts. In other cases, Indonesian audiences may not be able to fully understand the moral themes or issues contained in Hollywood war films that they watch, but these viewers can still enjoy the films. If you look at the facts that occurred from the past decade to the present, then every time a new war / colossal film airs in theaters, the audience will immediately queue for tens of meters for cinema tickets. Thousands of DVDs are sold until they are copied / hijacked and multiplied several times.

As a cultural product, films will never be separated from the people who create and use them, because film is a reflection of the culture of its creators in the form of imaginary narratives. Films are also created from responses to culturally believed beliefs. If a movie is able to attract a wide and diverse audience, it must operate in a system or structure that can be understood by various audiences. This means that the film successfully reflects the same cultural beliefs. This refers to the case study in the contents of this study where the author tried to provide a real comparison between two war films titled the Pacific War in the era of 1970 and 2001; which was very popular on his day, won awards, had similar history and character, but was different from the point of view of the film approach employed by the directors. The two films are "Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970) and Pearl Harbor (2001). "

Film also has an important role and responsibility in efforts to advance humanity. With the power of cinematography, audio-visual effects and the ability to construct thinking through editing, films prove to be very effective as a means of advocating ideas. Film is a personal expression and subjectivity of the creator, and then with "tools of filmmaking", a film has the ability to turn subjective ideas into a rational objectivity, so that a film can give a touch, open new views and thoughts to something. Through the distribution of US Box Office films globally, America's goal is none other than so that America can be better known by the people in developing countries and can increase the knowledge of the local community about America.

Indirectly, the presence of Hollywood films in Indonesia also influences the way of thinking of the people channeled through the hobby of watching American action films that are far more qualified, compared to domestic-produced films. These films include Black Hawk Down (2001), Saving Private Ryan (1998), Tears of the Sun (2003), Pearl Harbor (2001), Platoon (1986), and other action films. Indeed, there is nothing wrong with the presence of creative ideas by Hollywood film directors of any genre, but in war films, it will be very risky if there is a historical twisting of facts or a viewer's misconception of visual creation aimed at strengthening the legitimacy of soft-power country. New controversies and problems due to the irony of the meaning of a film will be able to influence the policies made by the government in the country concerned.

Ironically, the purpose of making a film titled war or politics sometimes it is merely to fulfill the personal interests of its author. This is what will then create public opinion about the values of the United States from the political, social, moral, economic and other aspects. From these various opinions, people can only see the United States in terms of positive and negative aspects, depending on how their point of view sees it. Some think that the United States is cunning, evil, kind, protective of many nations, upholding democracy and so on. But all that is certainly not far from the existence of global political goals by presenting US Warfare themed films.

## II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Framework is the arrangement of the writings of theories from a number of perspectives that are available to complement the conditional statements from the results of the directed hypothesis. In the discussion on "The Role of Film" Tora! Tora! Tora! 'And' Pearl Harbor 'in Affecting Indonesian Public Public Opinion (Case Study: Pacific War 1937-1945) ", theories that are used to become the basis of thinking and starting point highlight the problems used by the author namely: Liberalism, International Communication, Opinion Public and Authorship.

**Liberalism** is a classic ideology in the science of international relations that glorifies freedom. There are two types of Liberalism, namely Classical Liberalism and Modern Liberalism. Classical liberalism arose in the early 16th century. Modern liberalism began to emerge since the 20th century. However, it does not mean that after Modern Liberalism, Classical Liberalism simply disappear or be replaced by Modern Liberalism, because until now, the values of Classical Liberalism still exist. In contrast to Modern Liberalism, which does not change the basics, this only changes other things or in other words, core values do not change, there are only additions in the new version. So really, the era of Classical Liberalism has never ended. In essence, the existence of individuals and their freedom is greatly exalted by the notion of Liberalism. In this case, each individual is believed to have freedom of thought, each of which will produce a new understanding. There are two understandings, namely democracy (politics) and capitalism (economy). It does not mean that the freedom that an individual has is absolute freedom, because freedom is freedom that must be accounted for. There is still order in the ideology of Liberalism, or in other words, not free freedom. In addition, Liberalism also aspires to a free society characterized by freedom of thought for individuals, as imposed by the United States. Likewise, in relation to film media which is a tool for distributing soft-power to the United States, where freedom is addressed through outside aspects of actors other than the state, namely film.

The approach to the Liberalism paradigm refers more to the sociological approach according to James N. Rosenau where a country has an approach other than hard-power in the form of the military, but also the power of soft-power in the current era of globalization through the role of media. Sociological liberalism also suggests that international relations are not always only related to relations between countries, but there are individuals who are significantly involved in their interactions.

**International communication** is a field of study that focuses attention on the entire process through which data and information flow through national boundaries. In other words, a communication is carried out by a communicator who represents a country to the communicant who represents another country to convey messages related to the interests of the country with the aim of obtaining broader support. International communication also serves to dynamize international relations that are woven between two or more countries. The subjects studied are not just the flow itself, but also the structure of the current formed, the actors involved, the means used, the effects that are caused, and the underlying motivation. The approach used is macro, with non-individual actors as a unit of analysis, and close to the area of international disciplines or international political economy.

The development of international communication throughout the 20th century was influenced by various conditions. First, the Cold War and the struggle for political economic hegemony between the United States and the Soviet Union, which directly or indirectly involved all countries in the world. The world is a place not only for political battles, but also for information battles. Second, the emergence of new/ developing countries which can be indicated by the birth of various solidarity movements, which in the communication area are represented by the birth of the new world information management movement. Third, the formation of a world economic system towards globalization, which encourages ongoing communication between countries to support economic interests. Finally, it is the development of communication technology that, despite accelerating the flow of information, is also feared to widen the economic gap between developed and developing countries.

In its development, there are three perspectives in International Communication, namely diplomatic, journalistic, and propagandistic perspectives. In a diplomatic perspective, international communication is usually carried out in an interpersonal manner where diplomatic channels or direct communication between high-ranking state officials are more widely used to expand influence and overcome disagreements,

misunderstandings or contradictions to advance the goals and interests of each country, strengthen confidence, and avoid conflict.

In a journalistic perspective, international communication is carried out through printed and electronic mass media channels where free and open information flows from developed countries that come through the media are now considered to be more detrimental to developing countries. In this case, international communication with the dissemination of one-way information will show how developed countries have dominated international communication. Furthermore, in the propagandistic perspective, the field of international communication is more aimed at instilling ideas in the minds of other countries and is driven so strongly that they influence thoughts, feelings, and actions. So it is admitted that this propaganda perspective is the most powerful instrument for giving influence by sharpening, expanding, and changing attitudes and perspectives on an idea for an event. Another major aspect of the international communication system is the role in the dissemination of mass culture from the West to control parts of the world. Starting from print media, electronic images, or sound recordings, Western films, television programs, pop music, books and magazines have influenced traditional culture which can only be described as something revolutionary. There is no doubt that the world is indeed being directed to a mass culture that is equally oriented towards the West. Traditional cultures with different ethnic and national communities continue to erode and are overhauled by fundamental disturbances from America and Britain.

**Public opinion** is the act of expressing what is believed, valued, and expected by someone from certain objects and situations. That action can be voting, verbal statements, written documents or even silence. According to Cutlip & Center the power of public opinion must be dealt with, understood and used. Public opinion fosters a psychological environment in which various organizations or individuals can progress or be destroyed.

There is also the character of Lord Bryce's Public Opinion theory who states:

"Public opinion is a pile / collection of various conflicting things such as various opinions, beliefs, fantasies, prejudices, and aspirations. It is confusing, not interconnected, formless and different from day to day or week to week. But in the midst of these differences and confusion, each problem that arises becomes important and becomes the subject of a process of consolidation and decomposition so that it appears and forms a particular view or a collection of interrelated opinions, each of which has and defends itself to community members. It's about the power that is owned by a majority among the population, if we talk about public opinion. "

The reason why it is necessary to determine the audience, firstly is to identify the segment of the audience or group of people most appropriate to be targeted by a Public Relations program. Second, to create priorities, related to budget constraints and other resources. Third, choose the media and PR techniques that are most suitable. Fourth, is to prepare messages in such a way as to be effective and easily accepted.

**Authorship** is a 'cinema theory' that has long been known and developed for a long time. This theory has increasingly developed as an actualization and response to the world of film, the Hollywood film industry, and world cinemas for less than 7 decades. In this decade, various assumptions emerged regarding the impact of the film genres which influenced the way of thinking of the people, so that there was a need for contextualization of various discourses relating to institutions that supported the concept. In its implementation, a scientific study of Authorship focuses more on the importance of a director in channeling artistic creativity and his vision for the creation of a film work. Film critics and analysts often use the Authorship principle in their writings that sovereign the authority of artistic creativity and essence of cinema in the Hollywood industrial system. The theoretical boundaries of this principle are indeed inevitable, so that they must intersect with the commercial success of a film work, where if seen from the implementation process there will be various kinds of social and political conflicts.

The history of conceptualization of authorship according to its outline refers to the three periods of the writing of theory and criticism of the Western world since the 1950s, namely aesthetically focused textual analysis trying to describe works until the 1970s, then Impressionist and empirical flows are included in mid-film studies in the 1970s, then the film movement in the mid 80s included institutions of production and circulation, and sometimes the culture and life of the people played an important role in the texture of the production of a film.

The four principles of authorship can be related to textual analysis which include: proto-ateurism, auteurism, auteur-structuralism, and author as instance of politics. According to one of the initiators of cinema, Foucault, Authorship's routine activities in carrying out his creative process and vision are often at odds with thematic and aesthetic principles that have been embedded in the feudal form of commercialism, so that the use of evaluative rationality should be developed to achieve a balance between artistic freedom and the obligation of capitalism. This dilemma situation indirectly gives birth to new discourses that range from structuralism, psychoanalysis, and cultural studies.

The notion of authorship has so far persisted to date due to cultural interconnections that are so embedded in studies of film theory. With the ebb and flow of socialist alternatives from the consumer community, individuals as authors can enjoy freedom of creation freely. In essence, the combination of artistic independence and the aesthetics of an author with his commercial obligations in the film industry is considered capable of offering revolutionary turmoil over the dependence of socio-cultural norms on authoritarian power of a system, studio system or government institution.

In this case, film media can certainly be one of the other focuses in expanding a country's hegemony. Liberals believe that all humans are rational beings and recognize individual freedom above all. Liberalism also has a positive view of human characteristics, in this case Liberalism is convinced of progress in various aspects achieved by the state. In this case the film becomes a tool for a country's hegemony in giving soft-power influence. The next goal of this research after a strong link in the effort to expand the hegemony of a country combined with the theory of public opinion and international communication and supported through media such as film, will certainly lead to a conclusion where soft power has a more significant impact than just hard power in developing power both politically and socially.

### III. RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this study is a mixed method, which is a combined qualitative and quantitative approach that departs from the collection of relevant data to obtain facts and information by combining data both numbers and perceptions of collected writings associated with both forms of data which has been developed. Data collection is done by searching for evidence and facts through internet media and books, then distributing questionnaires to 50 respondents which are then measured by numerical data to obtain accurate research results. The type of research used is descriptive, namely a problem-solving procedure that is investigated by describing the state of the subject or object of research (someone, institution, society, etc.) at present based on facts that appear or as they are.

Data collection techniques are carried out through library and field studies. Reference literature used comes from official document sources, official websites, academic journals, print media and online. To support this research, the author also uses other techniques, namely by spreading the film 'Pearl Harbor' and 'Tora! Tora! Tora!' Along with questionnaire data (questionnaire) to 50 respondents representing several cities in Indonesia. The goal after the respondents watched the two films was to find out how much influence the film had on the creation of their assumptions and opinions in understanding the context of the Pacific War. The number of respondents was randomly selected from the age range of 15 to 40 years, education data, and respondents' hobby of watching movies. In addition, the author also held discussions with several film producers in Indonesia to get their responses regarding of Pacific war history.

### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This research produced an analysis of the process of how a visual creativity presented in film media can give such a strong impression to film goers, especially in Indonesia. In this case, the analysis is based on a comparative case study of the films Pearl Harbor and Tora! Tora! Tora! The discussion presented will examine Indonesian public opinion related to the phenomenality of the two films that have brought international sympathy to the US and Japan. This research succeeded in opening the reality of some Indonesian people by presenting both films in the form of spectacle and joint discussion, which was followed up by interviews and distribution of questionnaires to several cities in Indonesia. The discussion also examined opinions on the importance of the history of the Pacific War in a small part of World War II. Then, a study of each actor involved in the Pacific War. Next, the factors that influence Indonesian people's understanding of the history of the Pacific War as part of the important events of Indonesian independence in 1945; marked by unconditional surrender of Japan to the United States.

The obtained data is based on overall respondents interviewed and recorded statistically from several cities in Indonesia based on gender perspective, age range 15 to 35 years and above, education, and then seen from the hobby of respondents watching war films. From all these categories it can be concluded that:

- Indonesian public opinion is included in a fairly good category (58%). That is, they can accept the situations of the Pacific War history openly, where there is no partiality on the part of Japan and the US even though only through media films that tend to be of short duration and do not embody all war events.
- 52% of respondents agreed that the Pacific War was part of an important history of World War II.
- 58% of respondents also thought that the dominance of the outbreak of the Pacific War was more due to Japan's ambition to expand in the Pacific region.
- 72% of respondents said they were neutral and did not agree if the US was a passive actor before the events of Pearl Harbor, because of the fact that the US had carried out a series of attacks on Japan to support China.
- 46% of respondents said that the Pearl Harbor incident were the beginning of Japanese war crimes against the US, so that it aroused US anger to avenge Japan.

- 68% of respondents agreed to US actions in retaliating against Japan by dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This is considered as retaliation for what Japan has done to the US. After watching the movie *Tora! Tora! Tora!* and *Pearl Harbor* which retells the Pacific War story, from the spectacle it can be concluded that:
- 82% of respondents agreed that the film *Tora! Tora! Tora!* gives more sympathy for Japan.
- 44% of respondents agreed that the film *Pearl Harbor* fostered sympathy for the US as a victim.
- 68% of respondents also thought 'strongly agree' with the film *Tora! Tora! Tora!* which emphasizes the struggle of Japanese militancy.
- 62% of respondents think they agree with the film *Pearl Harbor* which emphasizes the struggle of US militancy.
- 54% of respondents stated that they "strongly agree" with the historical facts in the two *Tora! Tora! Tora!* and *Pearl Harbor*. Thus, the two films only become a tool to simplify audience's understanding of the complexity of Pacific War history. Related to the role of film media as a medium for the effective dissemination of public opinion.
- 50% of respondents agree that films have a very effective function in helping spread public opinion.
- 54% of respondents agreed that film as a media has a major influence in implementing a country's soft-power.

### **Increased Understanding of Actors in the Pacific War**

An understanding of the history of the Pacific War is not something that is easy to understand. The reason is that the Japanese expansion efforts in the Pacific region are considered tricky due to the expansion have triggered a major war. According to some respondents interviewed, the authors concluded that they understood more or less the actors involved in the Pacific War, namely the United States, China, and Japan as well as several countries which were not the main actors.

The majority of respondents argue that the intrigues in the Pacific War are only dwelling around the problem of expansion that was shaken by Japan in the Pacific region. Coupled with the conflict that arose from the United States in China, which at that time was trying to plug its nationalist ideology. All countries in an effort to expand their expansion areas certainly have to give a soft-power approach. This is what the US had done to China to get strong sympathy from China.

China's disappointment in the Japanese occupation provided a full opportunity for the US to support China indirectly in the form of military operations to threaten Japan. A number of respondents who were critical of the history of the Pacific War assumed that China at that time did not understand that the identity of its people was being swayed in confusion and had to side with the state which was merely exploiting or a country that wanted to seize its territory. Likewise, the Japanese who were blinded by the greed of the state politicians were considered unable to recognize who their opponents were, which of course was not comparable to its strength, namely the United States. Until then the US carried out an embargo on Japanese raw material needs.

Although the initial goal of the US was to help China in its war with Japan, Japan's over-zealous enthusiasm resulted in a sudden attack on Pearl Harbor which also sacrificed thousands of US Navy Marines. The anger and disappointment on the part of the US could not be avoided anymore. According to respondents with an age range of 20-25 years, Japan's attitude seemed ridiculous by carrying out these attacks which ultimately harmed the Japanese in a landslide manner. The US, which initially had no intention of carrying out any attacks on Japan in China, at the time felt fragile injured by a Japanese attack that could not be detected beforehand. However, after the disastrous event occurred, the US was awakening to prepare for the next strategy, which was to attack Japan in full.

When the US tried to launch an attack on Japan, perfect efforts by the US were indeed considered as a war atrocity by some respondents who favored the role of Japan. Of course, one US citizen won't accept the situation if he has to lose an innocent Navy. Until the US Air Force soldiers dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki which killed millions of Japanese at that time. Some respondents also expressed their devotion to innocent Japanese civilians that died from the explosion of atomic bombs dropped by the US on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

### **United States of America as the Winner of the Pacific War**

Victory is a goal that a country wants to achieve in the face of war. However, the true essence does not lie in the success in dealing with a problem intrigue, but whether the victory is worthy of being obtained or there is dishonesty and is just a coincidence. The United States is one of the winning countries of World War II with Britain, France, Russia. But for the opinion of other respondents who side with Japan, the title of victory which then led the winning countries to occupy the position of Security Council in the United Nations body (UN Security Council), is not considered an extraordinary thing in world history. Occupying the position of the Security Council is not an easy thing, especially when viewed from the credibility of a country that is given the

freedom to use Veto rights. Veto rights are often used by the US as a tool to tackle UN policies that are perceived as being at odds with US national interests. To this day, US involvement in the UN Security Council still raises the pros and cons of the US, especially after the US destructive attack on Iraq in 2003 despite being vetoed by France.

According to 92% of the votes of the respondents, the United States, which, despite its anger at Japan, still should not sacrifice many civilians more than the number of victims in the US during the attack on Pearl Harbor? The US won because Japan surrendered unconditionally to the US and left very deep wounds for Japanese citizens to this day. The United States has undeniably a large and powerful military power. However, the actions of Japan by attacking Pearl Harbor have woken the giants up within the US so that eventually they have to sacrifice many Japanese civilians.

Some respondents also argued that the victory of the Pacific War should indeed be won by the US because if won by Japan, then all countries in the Pacific region could be controlled by Japan, and Japan would never learn from his mistakes. While the US itself has long been established as an independent country under British rule and a strong country in various fields. Therefore, it is not surprising if the US should have received support from its allies, namely France, Britain and the Netherlands based on liberal democracy.

### **Japan as A Steadfast Country**

Japan's role in the history of the Pacific War, is a country that never gives up. This can be seen from his tenacity from the start before the Pacific War began. This country with the nickname of a "Rising Sun" already has very strong greed to fulfill its main ambition, which is to control the entire Pacific region since the 1930s. This was evident when Japan insisted on controlling China (the largest country in the Asian region) to take it from the United States. The US, which was carrying out a strategic mission in order to strengthen the ideology of Nationalism in various eastern regions against the Communist regime, had to find its new rival in maintaining its ideological expansion. So that when the United States carried out a major raw material embargo on basic needs against Japan, Japan's anger rose so that the attack on the US Navy base on December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor was inevitable.

When Japan made a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, 48% of respondents considered this a war crime. The attack was considered a silliness for some respondents who tried to trace the chronology of Pacific War history. The reason is that Japan took actions that do not take into account the causes and consequences it causes. Japan is considered ignorant of its opponent it faced behind Chinese civilians who at that time carried out various violent resistances against Japan. When viewed from a conflict resolution study, Japan was too greedy and ambitious when it wants to get something without thinking if you want to get honey, of course you can't attack the honeycomb.

The rushed actions of the Japanese military caused turbulence in the souls of the leaders and soldiers and chose to die rather than surrender unconditionally to the US. Efforts made by Japan are considered by some respondents to prove that Japan is a persistent and unyielding country. Until the end of his defeat where Japan surrendered unconditionally to the US, Japan still insisted on building Japan as it is today with the progress of the number two economy after the US. This proves that Japan is indeed continuously learning from past mistakes to improve a good future. Although its geographic area is small and not as large as other Asian countries, Japan is the only country in Asia that has the best economic stability. Although until 2011, the latest data shows that China has shifted the second position of the Japanese economy to third after the United States. Now, the Japanese economy is only worth \$ 5.4 trillion while the Chinese economy has reached \$ 5.8 trillion in the same period.

### **Pacific War as Important Events to End World War II**

The Pacific War was an important part of a series of World War II. Because, without the defeat of Japan at the end of the war, there would be no end to World War II. The defeat of Japan means the defeat of its allies, Germany and Italy. Indonesia, at that time the Netherlands East Indies, was not directly involved in World War II, but was colonized continuously during the struggle for independence by Japan. Indonesia's independence was obtained because the United States won against Japan after dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945. This then became an unforgettable history for Indonesia where when Japan was busy thinking about resistance to the US, Indonesia quietly proclaimed independence on August 17, 1945 by Indonesian national fighters, Ir. Soekarno and Drs. Mohammad Hatta. However, this independence was not recognized by the Dutch based on a regulation announced previously that Japanese-controlled areas were returned to the early colonizer, which was the Netherlands. After going through various military aggressions and negotiations as well as pressure from the US, the Dutch finally surrendered Indonesian territory to the Indonesian government. When World War II took place, the Japanese army was said to be a cruel army, which was as cruel as the Nazis and the Red Army (Soviet Union). The Japanese preferred to die by the

enemy or commit suicide rather than be held captive. No matter how difficult the situation during the war, Mati or the term Harakiri, according to him, is like a hero.

The United States has an important role in World War II as a party that does not want Japanese and German invasion. The majority of respondents argued that the US might not deploy its troops on a large scale if Japan did not make a surprise attack first to Pearl Harbor. But the US, which used to look passive, became aggressive by retaliating against Japanese attacks. Japan surrendered to the United States in August 15, 1945. World War II ended when Japan signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender document on board the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945 represented by General Douglas MacArthur and Mamoru Shigemitsu. After that, World War II ended.

## V. CONCLUSION

A Film plays a big role in thinking that is not in line with the facts due to the creator's creativity. Film also mirrors national culture because of its ability to describe various aspects of life, the reality and lifestyle of a nation's society. As tangible evidence, the United States has succeeded in presenting films featuring social and cultural wealth. This is expected by film creators to be able to provide a better understanding of the US state to the international community. The impacts produced by the Hollywood film industry are related to the efforts of the United States to create global public opinion which certainly has an impact on Indonesia, especially through the comparison of Pacific War-themed films, namely Pearl Harbor and Tora! Tora! Tora!

From the point of view of both films, Tora! Tora! Tora! became the most phenomenal film in the 1970s. While Pearl Harbor was quite shocking to the world community in mid 2001. Amid efforts to increase quality films, Tora! Tora! Tora! appeared as a breakthrough in high-quality films of his day. No wonder there are many pros and cons that arise in the minds of viewers who are amazed at the progress of the US film industry in the 70s. Tora! Tora! Tora! also tried to highlight the dramatization side of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and a series of major US mistakes so why the attack must continue. The critics of the film "Pearl Harbor" is directed at the incompatibility of the title with the concept of romance in the storyline. Where the public highlights plotting stories as if they were more focused on the love stories of the three main characters compared to the backgrounds and events of the Pacific War history itself.

The Pacific War is a series of World War II that occurred in the Pacific Ocean and surrounding islands. The Pacific War was known in Japan as the Great East Asia War, which had begun earlier than World War II, between 1937 and 1945. Thousands of civilians and military soldiers were killed during the war. The conflict in the Pacific War was originated from an expansion problem that was stirred by Japan in the Pacific region. Coupled with the conflict that arose from the United States in China, which at that time was trying to plug its nationalist ideology. All countries in an effort to expand their expansion areas certainly have to give a soft-power approach. This is what the US had done to China to get its strong sympathy.

China's disappointment over the Japanese occupation since 1931, gave the US a full opportunity to support the "communist state" indirectly by forming a military operation against Japan and carrying out an embargo on Japanese basic necessities in order to pose a threat to Japan. 80% of respondents who are critical of the history of the Pacific War assume that China at that time did not understand that the identity of its people was being swayed in confusion. Likewise, the Japanese who were blinded by the greed of the state politicians were considered unable to recognize who their opponents were, which of course was not comparable to its strength, namely the United States. The actions of the United States which were considered to be insulting to Japan's self-esteem, certainly sparked a great war between the US and Japan. Because Japan felt it had occupied China since 1931, but the US suddenly took over the main role of china. With the US action to cut exports to his country, Japan felt very threatened and planned an attack on Pearl Harbor (the largest US Navy base in the Pacific). Finally, the political interests associated with the geostrategic goals between each of the camps in the expansion caused an explosion of war which ended fatal.

From the discussion on "the public opinion of Indonesian people related to understanding the history of the Pacific War", the authors concluded that the public opinion of the Indonesian people was included in the fairly good category (58%). That is, they can accept the conditions and situations of the Pacific War history openly, where there is no partiality on the part of Japan and the US even though only through media films that tend to be of short duration and do not embody all war events. 52% of respondents strongly agreed that the Pacific War was part of an important history of World War II. 58% of respondents also thought that the dominance of the outbreak of the Pacific War was more due to Japan's ambition to expand in the Pacific region. 72% of respondents stated neutral and did not agree if the US was a passive actor before the events of Pearl Harbor, because of the fact that the US had carried out a series of attacks on Japan to support China. For 46% of respondents, the Pearl Harbor incident was the beginning of Japanese war crimes against the US, so that it aroused US anger to avenge Japan. Then, 68% of respondents said they agreed to US actions to avenge Japan by dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This is considered as retaliation for what Japan had done to the US.



Related to the movie Tora! Tora! Tora! and Pearl Harbor who retells the story of the Pacific War, 82% of respondents agree that the film Tora! Tora! Tora! has offers more sympathy for Japan. Meanwhile, 44% of respondents agreed that the film Pearl Harbor fostered sympathy for the US as a victim. 68% of respondents also thought 'strongly agree' with the film Tora! Tora! Tora! which emphasizes the struggle of Japanese militancy. Then, 62% of respondents thought they agreed with the film Pearl Harbor which emphasized the struggle of US militancy. 54% of respondents stated that they "strongly agree" with the fact that there was an engineering history in both films Tora! Tora! Tora! and Pearl Harbor. Thus, the two films only become a tool to simplify audience understanding of the complexity of Pacific War history. Related to the role of film media as a medium for the effective dissemination of public opinion, 50% of respondents agreed that films have a very effective function in helping spread public opinion. While 54% of respondents agree that film as a media has a big influence in implementing a country's soft-power.

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