Culture Trail:

Embracing The Beauty and Complexity
of WORLD HERITAGE

Muhammad Ilham Ali, S.S, M.Pd

CULTURE TRAIL: EMBRACING THE BEAUTY AND COMPLEXITY OF WORLD HERITAGE

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TAHTA MEDIA GROUP

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2. Setiap Orang yang dengan tanpa hak dan/atau tanpa izin Pencipta atau pemegang Hak Cipta melakukan pelanggaran hak ekonomi Pencipta sebagaimana dimaksud dalam Pasal 9 ayat (1) huruf c, huruf d, huruf f, dan/atau huruf h untuk Penggunaan Secara Komersial dipidana dengan pidana penjara paling lama 3 (tiga) tahun dan/atau pidana denda paling banyak Rp500.000.000,00 (lima ratus juta rupiah).

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PREFACE

Welcome to "Culture Trail: Embracing the Beauty and Complexity of World Heritage." In the vast tapestry of human history, there are threads of culture that weave together to form the rich fabric of our collective heritage. From the majestic monuments of ancient civilizations to the vibrant traditions of indigenous peoples, our world is adorned with many cultural treasures that reflect the diversity and ingenuity of humanity.

This book is a journey—an exploration into the heart of our shared heritage. It is a celebration of the remarkable achievements of past civilizations and a testament to the enduring legacy they have left behind. Through the lens of World Heritage sites, we embark on a voyage across continents and epochs, uncovering stories of triumph and tragedy, innovation and adaptation.

But this journey is not just about admiring the beauty of these sites; it is also about understanding their complexity. Each World Heritage site is a microcosm of history, a reflection of the cultural, social, political, and environmental forces that have shaped our world. By delving into the stories behind these sites, we gain insight into the challenges faced by past societies and the lessons they offer for our own.

As we traverse this cultural trail, let us embrace the diversity of human experience and marvel at the ingenuity of our ancestors. Let us learn from their triumphs and failures, as well as their resilience and creativity. Above all, let us recognize the importance of preserving and protecting our cultural heritage for future generations. Join us as we embark on this journey of discovery, guided by curiosity, empathy, and a deep appreciation for the beauty and complexity of our world's heritage.

Tondano, April 2024.
Author

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INTRODUCTION

In the tapestry of human existence, a remarkable array of threads exists—each representing a unique culture, a distinct civilization, and an individual story. These threads intertwine to form the rich fabric of our collective heritage, weaving together tales of triumph and tragedy, innovation and tradition. At the heart of this intricate tapestry lie the World Heritage sites, jewels of human achievement that embody the beauty and complexity of our shared history.

Welcome to "Culture Trail: Embracing the Beauty and Complexity of World Heritage." This book is a testament to the enduring legacy of our past and a celebration of the cultural diversity that defines us as a species. Through exploring World Heritage sites, we embark on a journey across continents and millennia, uncovering the stories of civilizations long gone and traditions still vibrant today.

But what exactly is World Heritage, and why does it matter? Designated by UNESCO, World Heritage sites are places of outstanding universal value—irreplaceable treasures that belong to all of humanity. They range from iconic landmarks like the Great Wall of China and the Taj Mahal to hidden gems like the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela in Ethiopia and the ancient city of Petra in Jordan. Each site is a testament to the creativity, ingenuity, and cultural diversity of the people who created them.

Yet, the significance of World Heritage extends beyond mere admiration for architectural marvels or natural wonders. These sites are repositories of knowledge, wisdom, and identity, embodying the collective memory of past societies and offering valuable insights into our shared human experience. They are also powerful catalysts for sustainable development, driving tourism, economic growth, and social cohesion in communities worldwide.

In this book, we invite you to join us on a journey of discovery. This journey will take you from the pyramids of Egypt to the rainforests of Central America, from the palaces of Europe to the deserts of Australia. Along the way, we will delve into the stories behind these remarkable sites, exploring the cultural, historical, and environmental factors that have shaped them and their challenges in the modern world.

As we embark on this Culture Trail, let us embrace the beauty and complexity of our world's heritage with curiosity, empathy, and a sense of wonder. Let us recognize the importance of preserving and protecting these treasures for future generations, ensuring they continue to inspire and enrich our lives for centuries.

So, come with us as we journey through time and space, guided by a deep appreciation for the wonders of our shared human heritage. Welcome to Culture Trail—a celebration of the past, a reflection of the present, and a testament to the enduring legacy of World Heritage.

CHAPTER I
WHAT IS CULTURE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Culture comes from society and provides certain boundaries that form an identity. Culture is a pattern of community life that is complex, comprehensive, and quite abstract. "Culture includes all forms of manifestation of the social behavior of a community, the reactions of individuals influenced by the customs of the group in which they live, and also the results of human activities determined by customs." (Franz Boas, 1858-1942). Culture can also be interpreted as a way of life for a particular community to achieve goals that have become a common consensus so that the culture of a specific community may be different from other community groups.

Culture is formed through a long process and over a long period. Through internalization and socialization, it includes a cognitive construction of its identity. Culture is generally a way of life that develops, is shared, and is passed down from generation to generation. Studying culture is not an easy activity because there are many conceptual boundaries from various languages, history, reading sources, or literature, both methodological approaches; there are also many other disciplines that study different kinds of issues related to culture, such as Sociology, Psychoanalysis, Psychology (behavior) and so on, each of which has its level of clarity depending on the concept and emphasis of each.

When viewed from the origin, the word "Culture" comes from Sanskrit, namely "Buddhayah," which is the plural form of "Buddhi," which means human mind or mind. In English, "culture" comes from the Latin word colere, which means cultivating or working. It can also be interpreted as tilling the soil or farming. The word culture is also sometimes translated as 'culture' in Indonesian.

In the discipline of Cultural Anthropology, the notions of Culture and Culture are not distinguished. The definition of Culture in the Basic Social Sciences of Culture (ISBD) is: "The creation, regulation, and processing of human values that are included in efforts to humanize themselves in the

natural environment, both physical and social." Humans humanize themselves and humanize their environment. Etymologically, the word culture comes from the Latin colere, which means cultivating or working. The word culture in English can also be interpreted as culture in Indonesian and represents culture. The word culture comes from the word budh, which in Sanskrit means mind, which then becomes the word budhi (singular) or budhaya (compound). So, culture can be interpreted as a result of human thought or reason. Etymologically, several experts also expressed their opinions about the meaning of culture. Here are the views of experts regarding the definition of culture;

1. Edward burnett taylor
   Edward b. Tylor defines culture as a complex whole that contains knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, laws, customs, and other abilities a person acquires as a member of society.
2. Selo seomardjan dan soelaeman somardi
   according to selo and soelaeman, culture is all society's work, taste, and creation.
3. Ki hajar dewantara
   According to ki hajar dewantara, culture is the fruit of the human mind that arises from the results of nature and society. Culture, according to ki hajar dewantara, is also a form of the glory of a society that can overcome difficulties and become the beginning of the emergence of order in society.
4. Koentjaraningrat
   culture is the behavior of creatures such as humans, and the results can be obtained through various learning processes and arranged systematically in social life.
5. Parsudi suparlan
   Culture is defined as human knowledge, which is a characteristic of social beings that can be used to understand and interpret various things in the environment, thus creating an experience. According to parsudi suparlan, culture is a foundation and reference for a person's behavior.
6. Harjoso
   harjoso defines culture in seven critical points, as follows:
   1) Each region's culture is different from the others;

2) Culture has been present since time immemorial and is maintained by being taught from generation to generation to the next generation;
3) Culture has several components consisting of sociological, biological, and psychological human existence in various regions;
4) Culture can be referred to as culture through specific methods and conditions;
5) Culture has some biological aspects in it;
6) Culture is dynamic;
7) Besides being dynamic, culture is also relative and varies from one society to another.

1.2 DEFINITION OF CULTURE

The word culture comes from the Sanskrit language, namely Buddhayah, from the word buddhi, which means mind or reason, so culture is things related to the mind, "color," which means cultivating or working the land or farming. In Indonesian, the word culture has been adopted as culture or reason. Meanwhile, the definition of culture itself is a system of knowledge that includes a system of ideas, so culture is abstract in everyday life. Meanwhile, the embodiment of culture is objects created by humans as cultural creatures in the form of behavior and objects of a fundamental nature, for example, behavioral patterns, language, living equipment, social organizations, religion, art, etc., which all of which are intended to help humans carry out social life.

"National culture is a culture that emerged from the cultural efforts of the entire Indonesian people. The old and original culture that exists as the pinnacle of culture in regions throughout Indonesia is counted as national culture. "Cultural efforts must be directed towards the advancement of civility, culture, and unity, without rejecting new materials from foreign cultures which can develop or enrich the nation's own culture, as well as raise the level of humanity of the Indonesian people."

Every group of people in every region of the world has a culture. The meaning of culture is a way of life that develops and is owned by a group of people. It is then passed on to the next generation. This continues to be maintained for a long time or may become extinct. It is known that culture is formed from several complicated elements. Among other things, culture is

created from customs, language, works of art, religious and political systems. Language is the same as culture, an inseparable part of human communication.

Many people think that a culture is something that is genetically inherited. In addition, culture is also an overall pattern of life. The meaning of culture has an abstract, complex, and broad nature. Meanwhile, according to KBBI (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia), culture means thoughts, intellect, or customs. Views of culture according to 5 experts:

1. Edward Burnett Tylor: according to Tylor, culture is a complex system that includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, laws, customs, abilities, and habits humans acquire as members of society.
2. M. Jacobs and B.J. Stern: culture includes a whole that provides forms of social technology, ideology, religion, and art and objects, all of which are colonial heritage.
3. Robert H. Lowie: culture is everything an individual acquires from society, including beliefs, customs, artistic norms, and eating habits, where expertise is developed not from creativity but from past inheritance obtained through formal or informal education.
4. Clifford Geertz, a world-renowned anthropologist, says culture is an ordered system of meanings and symbols. The symbols are then translated and interpreted to control behavior and extra somatic sources of information, stabilize individuals, and develop knowledge and ways of behaving.
5. Roger M. Keesing defines the meaning of culture through two approaches: adaptive and ideational. According to the adaptive approach, culture is a contest of thoughts and behavior. Meanwhile, according to the conceptual approach, culture is solely a context of thought.

1.3 CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

Culture has universal properties, meaning that general characteristics are inherent in every culture, whenever and wherever that culture is located (Ali & Lestari, 2024). These characteristics are as follows: culture is a common property, and as we know, every society or group has its own culture. No matter where or when, they will have their unique way of doing things, customs, and understanding of the world. Culture is the result of learning; culture is not something we are born with; we learn it from our families,

communities, and people around us. It's like picking up the same behaviors and beliefs from the people we interact with.

Culture is based on symbols; cultures use symbols, words, gestures, pictures, or objects to represent and communicate their ideas. For example, the flag is a symbol of a country's identity, and language is full of symbols to convey meaning. Integrated culture, That culture is like a giant puzzle. All its parts - customs, traditions, language, and so on - are interconnected. Changing just one part can affect the entire culture. Culture can be adapted, Culture isn't fixed or rigid. People can adjust their culture to meet new challenges or to interact with other cultures. It's like a living, breathing thing that can evolve.

In the science of culture and society (anthropology and sociology), the concept of culture has a comprehensive meaning. sociology) the idea of culture has a broad sense. In these sciences, culture is defined as all that humans learn as members of a society. as members of a society. Each generation in a society bequeaths abstract things (ideas, values, norms) and concrete things or objects to the next generation—tangible objects. What is learned or what is inherited is generally called culture. Thus, the form of culture is ideal (abstract) and concrete (cultural objects)—Concrete (cultural objects). Culture is learned, giving meaning to reality, not just a way of behaving, but also thinking.

THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN SHAPING HUMAN IDENTITY

Language and Communication: Language is one of the most potent elements in forming a person's cultural identity. Language is a means of communication and a holder of cultural values, norms, and history. Through language, individuals understand and express their identity. **Values and Beliefs:** The values and beliefs held by individuals are greatly influenced by the culture in which they are raised. It includes views on morality, ethics, and norms of behavior. **Traditions and Rituals:** Cultural traditions and rituals maintain and celebrate cultural identity. Ceremonies, celebrations, and rituals play an important role in preserving cultural heritage, helping strengthen social ties, and providing a sense of community closeness. **Growth and Learning:** The formation of human identity begins at an early age. Children learn about their culture through their education, family, and social

environment. Teaching culture involves learning values, historical stories, and knowledge passed through generations.

Art, Music, and the Arts: Art, music, and the arts reflect creative expression and cultural identity. They create a unique artistic legacy and communicate stories, experiences, and cultural values. **Lifestyle and Culinary Traditions:** Culture greatly influences how individuals eat, dress, and spend their free time. Culinary traditions are how culture is manifested in food and drink and play an essential role in a group's culinary identity. **Social Interaction and Membership in Groups:** People form their identities through social interaction and membership in cultural groups. These interactions influence their view of themselves and how others see them. **Adaptation and Change:** An individual's cultural identity is not static; it can change over time. Individuals may experience identity changes when interacting with other cultures or when their culture undergoes internal or external changes.

Culture plays a vital role in shaping a person's identity. This identity reflects the background, culture, beliefs, and habits passed down from generation to generation. Through culture, people can maintain traditions, preserve local culture, and enhance their understanding of history and ethics relating to their society. This connects people to their origins, history, and community values. Education and Tradition Culture is the medium that conveys knowledge, local wisdom, and traditions from one generation to the next.

1.4   THE CONCEPT OF CULTURAL RELATIVISM

Awareness of Cultural Diversity: Cultural relativism reminds us that the world is filled with many different cultures. This includes differences in language, traditions, beliefs, values, norms, and ways of life. Awareness of cultural diversity is the first step towards understanding and respecting other people's cultures. **Tolerance towards Differences:** This concept encourages tolerance towards cultural differences. This means we must accept that what is considered normal or correct in one culture may not be accurate in another. This includes respect for religion, dress, values, and other cultural norms. **Avoidance of Stereotypes and Prejudice:** Cultural relativism emphasizes avoiding stereotypes and prejudice against certain cultural groups. Too often,

people tend to generalize or belittle other cultures out of ignorance or fear of those who are different. Cultural relativism drives us to seek a more profound understanding.

Cultural Non-neutrality: One of the main principles of cultural relativism is that no cultural standard is higher or better than another. No culture can be used as a yardstick to judge or measure other cultures. All cultures have intrinsic value and importance. **Intercultural Dialogue:** The concept of cultural relativism encourages intercultural dialogue and exchange. This opens the door to learning from other cultures, sharing knowledge, and enriching the human experience. Intercultural dialogue can help break stereotypes and promote better understanding.

Positive Criticism: Although cultural relativism rejects negative judgments of other cultures, this does not mean that all aspects of a culture should be considered valid or reasonable. This concept supports positive criticism, namely assessing culture or cultural practices based on respect for differences. Positive criticism tries to understand the context and cultural background that underlies a practice. **Importance of Human Rights:** Although cultural relativism respects cultural differences, it also recognizes that universal values, such as human rights, must be respected. This indicates that not all cultural actions or practices can be justified on artistic grounds, especially if they violate fundamental human rights.

Cultural relativism is the view that no universal standard for measuring culture exists. All cultural values and beliefs should be understood according to their context and not judged against outside norms and values. Proponents of cultural relativism also tend to argue that the norms and values of one culture should not be evaluated using the norms and values of another culture. Culture results from the interaction between humans and all the contents in this universe. Humans are created by God by being equipped with their minds so that they can work on this earth and essentially become the caliph on this earth (in Rafael Raga Maran, 1999: 36). In addition, humans also have a reason, intelligence, feelings, emotions, desires, and behavior.

With all the abilities humans possess, they can create a culture. There is a relationship between humans and culture. Culture is a human product, but humans are a product of culture. In other words, culture exists because humans create it, and humans can live amid the culture they have a culture that he has

made. Culture will continue to run when there are humans as its supporters. Culture has a significant impact on humans. Human work gives rise to technology that is primarily used to protect humans against the environment.

So that culture has a role as follows:
1) A guiding relationship between people or groups;
2) A place to channel feelings and other abilities;
3) As a guide to life and human life;
4) Distinguishing humans and animals;
5) Instructions on how humans should act and behave in relationships;
6) Regulators so that humans can understand how to act, do;
7) As essential capital for development.

Humans are cultured creatures; through his mind, humans can develop culture, and humans live and depend on culture as a result of its creation. Culture also provides rules for humans in managing the environment with the technology it creates. Various kinds of human strength must face the forces of nature and others. Other forces. In addition, humans need satisfaction both spiritually and materially. Material.

The culture of the community is primarily influenced by the culture that comes from the community itself. The work of the community itself gave birth to technology or material, which mainly protects themselves against the environment. In defending themselves from the natural environment, humans gave in at an early stage and merely acted within the limits of protecting themselves. The situation is different in complex societies, where the level of culture is higher. The result is technology that provides vast possibilities to utilize natural products and even master nature.

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