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Editors' Profile

Drs. Ukas, S.H., M.Hum. is a faculty member at Universitas Putera Batam, specializing in the field of law. As the editor of Mosaik Peradaban: Interaksi Manusia dan Kebudayaan, he brings an interdisciplinary perspective that bridges legal studies with cultural and societal dynamics.

Book's Content

Authors in this book emphasize that culture is an entity that continues to develop, starting from a simple form to reach higher complexity. This development not only functions as a means of adaptation but also as a way for humans to find solutions to the various challenges they face. More than that, culture reflects the way of life of humans based on a system and value of symbols, which places humans in a transcendent reality.

In line with this idea, the authors emphasize that culture has unique characteristics that distinguish it from other aspects of life. It is present as a symbol, inherited through a learning process, arranged in a system, and integrated with various other components. From these characteristics, a mindset is born that forms the identity of society and makes culture a manifestation of collective human consciousness.

Furthermore, the authors explain that although culture and civilization can be distinguished, the two remain closely related and influence each other. Technological and ethical advances, for example, are elements that develop in the realm of civilization, while religion remains the foundation that gives meaning to culture. Therefore, this book emphasizes that civilization will be sharper when it is connected to theology, considering that humans, as the motor of civilization, at the same time also have limitations. Thus, civilization becomes a driving force for humans to achieve a better life.

In relation to social change, the authors emphasize that no culture can develop without the support of society, just as there is no society that does not have a culture. Reski et al. emphasize that the stages of change that occur in society are cultural evolution that cannot be separated from elements of technology and ideology. Meanwhile, the factors causing cultural evolution include the adjustment of society to the environment; therefore, this evolution requires humans to change. Then there is a process of relationship or interaction between one society and another that encourages cultural assimilation.

The impact of cultural evolution can also be seen from two sides. On the one hand, this development brings great benefits, such as technological advances, increased welfare, the development of education and science, and the creation of a more effective and just social system. However, on the other hand, this change also presents challenges, such as the loss of local culture, increased consumerism, and the strengthening of capitalism's dominance in various aspects of human life.

The authors further explain that changes in a society's economic system not only affect the way they meet their life needs but also shape values, norms, and patterns of social interaction. When the economy undergoes transformation, whether through industrialization or globalization, culture also adapts to the new dynamics. For example, the transition from an agrarian economy to an industrial economy has changed the social structure of society from communal to more individualistic, along with the development of capitalism in its mindset. In addition, the economic system also determines the development of technology and innovation that play a role in shaping culture. Economic progress encourages the birth of more advanced infrastructure, education, and information systems, thus accelerating the process of acculturation and cultural assimilation. At the end of their discussion, the authors emphasize that art and architecture have an important role as cultural agents. Architecture, for example, does not merely function as a physical construction but also reflects cultural change. Architectural styles that have developed over time show how social values influence the form of space to the layout of the city. The division of space in a house often reflects social hierarchy, while the existence of public space in the middle of the city reflects the level of community welfare and the egalitarian ideology adopted by a civilization.

Conclusion

'Mosaik Peradaban: Interaksi Manusia dan Kebudayaan' is a book that provides an integrated view of the relationship between humans, culture, and civilization. This book discusses various disciplines, including the humanities, highlighting how values, ethics, and aesthetics shape the mindset and behavior of society over time. In addition, art and architecture are discussed as visual manifestations of changes in civilization, where architectural styles not only reflect technological and economic developments but also reflect the social system and cultural identity of a society. Contemporary concepts and issues regarding cultural evolution, as well as the impact of economics and technology on social change, are presented through fundamental analogies. This systematic approach to content is supported by case studies, while local exploration and ethnography enrich the analysis, showing how culture and physical space interact in shaping the dynamics of civilization.

Reference

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