Abstract

The main purpose of this academic exercise attempts to make a historical and comparative analysis of the anti-Chinese movements in contemporary Indonesia. A comparison of the 1945, 1965 and 1998 anti-Chinese riots will be done. The objective of this dissertation is to show that the occurrence of the anti-Chinese movements in 1998 is due to both historical reasons and modern issues, such as economic crisis and the instability of the Suharto government etc.

First of all, a general background history of Indonesian Chinese will be provided. With this background knowledge, we will then be in a better position to understand most of the reasons leading to the anti-Chinese movements. Following this is a detailed description on the background, leading causes and reasons pertaining to the anti-Chinese movements in 1945, 1965 and 1998 and the main emphasis will be on the analysis of the 1998 anti-Chinese movements. A comparison will then be done to identify similarities and differences between the three anti-Chinese movements in 1945, 1965 and 1998 respectively. Finally, the concluding chapter will then highlight the fact that the anti-Chinese riots in 1998 is not an isolated event by itself, but a continuation of the anti-Chinese movements that have happened earlier on in this century. And, though most of the Indonesian Chinese are acculturated into the society, the anti-Chinese resentment is still very strong, and the Chinese are eventually the scapegoats.

The main findings of this thesis is that three factors, which are the state of the world, the state of the Indonesia and the state of Indonesian Chinese intertwined one another and it is this fact that has given rise to the occurrence of the anti-Chinese movements in Contemporary Indonesia. The sources of my materials are mainly from newspapers, magazines, internet articles and published literature. I sincerely hope
that my analysis will be able to help and inspire more people and researchers to enter this field of study.