

## **Book Review Aidit: “Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara”**

Zsazsa Bhaskara Pramudhita and Prihantoro, S.S., M.A.

English Department, Faculty of Humanity, Diponegoro University, Semarang 50275

---

### **Abstract**

*DN Aidit is the most controversial figure in Indonesia’s history. DN Aidit’s name become some kind of taboo to be discussed or talked. After the “New Order” era, DN Aidit’s name begin to be discussed on media again. Many books discussed DN Aidit, one of them is Aidit: Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara. This book discussed two sides of DN Aidit, DN Aidit’s good side and bad side. This book offers a more complete version of DN Aidit. This final project will discuss and analyze about this book.*

*Keyword: DN Aidit, Indonesia’s history, two sides of DN Aidit, G30S/PKI.*

### **Abstrak**

*DN Aidit merupakan tokoh paling kontroversial dalam sejarah bangsa Indonesia. Nama DN Aidit menjadi hal tabu untuk dibicarakan atau didiskusikan. Setelah masa orde baru berakhir nama DN Aidit kembali banyak didiskusikan melalui beragam media baik lisan maupun cetak. Banyak buku yang membahas DN Aidit, salah satunya adalah Aidit: Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara. Buku ini berisi dua sisi dari DN Aidit yaitu sisi baik dan sisi buruk. Dan buku ini menyajikan versi yang lebih lengkap dari tokoh yang kontroversial ini. Final project ini akan mencoba untuk menganalisisnya.*

*Kata kunci: DN Aidit, sejarah Indonesia, dua sisi DN Aidit, G30S/PKI.*

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Background of Writing**

History is a series of events that happened in the past that affects the future. Everything within the world has its own history. History itself has recorded uncountable series of events that happened in very long time. Indonesia as a country also has a very long history. Many people have involved in Indonesia’s history. Among many names that involved in Indonesia’s history Dipa Nusantara Aidit is the most controversial one. DN Aidit has both clear and mysterious history. Most Indonesians known who

he is and what he has done but there are still many things about DN Aidit that still remain undiscovered and untold. Most of Indonesians would think that DN Aidit is the brain of 1965 coup. In September 1965, many Indonesians believed, DN Aidit and his communist party caused a flame in most Indonesia region at that time. It is said that thousands or maybe millions of human’s life is wasted. 30 years have passed and DN Aidit is still believed as an evil man who caused that tragedy. There are many ideas that support that idea. In this paper the writer would like to review a book entitled Aidit: Dua

Wajah Dipa Nusantara. The writer would review the book and share the facts and ideas about DN Aidit within the book. The review is mainly about the title of the book itself, Aidit: Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara. The review will focus on Aidit's life from his childhood until his final days, about his political views, about how he built his party.

There are always two sides of a coin, means that everything in this world is relative and has both good and bad side. DN Aidit also has bad and good side, DN Aidit is believed to be the man behind a series of tragedy in October 1965. For almost 40 years the name Aidit was like 'Judas' in Christianity. Indonesian think or forced to think that DN Aidit is the evil guy. No one ever consider that DN Aidit was also involved in youth movement during the early days of Indonesia's independence. This paper will reveal the unknown side of DN Aidit so that the reader could see a more complete version of DN Aidit and see DN Aidit from different side. The purpose of this review itself is to give the reader clearer ideas about DN Aidit. Besides using the book entitled Aidit: Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara, the writer would use other books to support the fact and details about DN Aidit.

Another source related with DN Aidit also would be used, for example article and pdf file from the internet. Of course the writer would use a good and reliable source from the internet. The writer would use a movie to give more view about DN Aidit, the movie entitled Pengkhianatan G30S/PKI (1982). The paper would be divided into four chapters, on the first chapter the writer would tell the reason behind the choosing of this book, Aidit: Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara. On this first chapter, the writer would give the

reader a 'blueprint' of this paper, about the pieces that the writer would make into one unity called a paper. The next chapter will provide the writer a brief yet important biography of a man called DN Aidit. As the third chapter that would be the most important part of the paper, the writer would fill it with two different views and ideas. The common view and idea in Indonesia that consider DN Aidit was a communist rebel. On the other hand the writer would provide the reader about another side of DN Aidit, about where he comes from, about his family and many more. The writer would also add his personal comments and opinion about this book. The last chapter would be the conclusion where the writer would close this paper with a value or lesson that we could find and get from the book and the paper itself.

### **1.2. Purposes of Writing**

The writer's purposes of the writing are:

1. To summarize "Aidit: Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara."
2. To review "Aidit: Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara."
3. To give the reader a different view about DN Aidit by presenting more facts and details about DN Aidit

### **1.3. Short Biography of Dipa Nusantara Aidit**

According the book entitled Aidit: Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara, Aidit was born from a wealthy family in Belitong, south sumatera, D.N. Aidit is the eldest of six children. His father, Abdullah Aidit is an officer in forestry department, a high position at that time. D.N. Aidit's mother, Mailan, is a Ningrat heir. Mailan's father was a landlord. People in Belitong often said that this family's land is so wide. Meanwhile, Abdullah Aidit is the son of Haji Ismail, a successful businessman in

fishery. D.N. Aidit's father had many sero, place to fishing in the sea, and he is the largest fish seller in the market. As D.N. Aidit came from wealthy family, he had many friends from different races and different background. Because of Haji Ismail's wealth, his children could study at HIS (Hollandsc Inlandsche School). His son was very religious. After the class Aidit and his brother learned to read Quran. After graduating from HIS, 13 years old D.N. Aidit said to his father that he wanted to go to Jakarta. The reason was there was no higher education in Belitong at that time. To enter high school or called as MULO the youth should go to Medan or Jakarta. Unfortunately, when Aidit arrived at Jakarta the enrollment to MULO had been closed. Finally Aidit enrolled to MHS (Middestand Handel School) a business and trading school in Central Jakarta. After all Aidit never graduated from MHS. Aidit was more interested in politics than his study. Aidit began to gain interest about communism after he met a guy named Wikana, an underground activist of Communist Party in West Java. Books about Marxism and Communism became his main reading. DN Aidit passion about Communism gained more after he met Musso who just returned from Uni Soviet. DN Aidit was impressed by Musso's ideas and visions. In 1948 the 25 years old DN Aidit got an important position as a coordinator of labor section in the Communist Party. A month after received that position, in September 18th 1948, in Madiun, East Java thousands of people consist of labor and farmer overtook the government. Musso and the Communist Party tried to build what he called as Soviet Republik

Indonesia. Madiun, Magetan, Blora, Cepu and cities in east Java and Central Java were conquered by the Communist Party and its people. However, this revolutionary action finally failed, and Musso lost his life by a rifle's army. It was a bitter experience for DN Aidit, he lost his mentor.

DN Aidit never gave up on the Communist Party. Three years after the Madiun rebellion, DN Aidit overtook the leadership of the Communist Party from the old generation. With his comrades Njoto and Lukman, they became the backbone of the Communist Party. Under DN Aidit, Njoto and Lukman, the Communist Party grew bigger and become the largest Communist Party in non-communist country. In the 1955 elections Communist Party succeeded in getting over six millions votes.

In 1965 there were a series of events that made Communist Party and DN Aidit collapsed and destroyed until nowadays. September 30th 1965 five generals of the army were killed, DN Aidit and the Communist Party were blamed for being the mastermind of those events. After that, DN Aidit moved to several cities in Central Java and finally on the November 22nd 1965 DN Aidit was captured in Solo. The next morning aidit was executed in Boyolali, but the location of where the body of DN Aidit was buried is still unknown.

#### **1.4 Figures Mentioned on the Book**

Dipa Nusantara Aidit: The leader of Central Committee PKI.

MH Lukman : Second vice leader of PKI.

Soetanti : Wife of Dipa Nusantara Aidit

Moedigdo : Father of Soetanti.

Mailan : Mother of Dipa Nusantara Aidit.  
 Musso : Mentor of Dipa Nusantara Aidit,  
 Njoto : First vice leader of PKI.  
 Soeharto : The man who lead the extermination of G30S.  
 Soekarno : The first president of Indonesia.  
 Arifin C. Noer : The director of Pengkhianatan G30S/PKI movie.  
 Syu'bah Asa : A poet, the man who played as Dipa Nusantara Aidit in Pengkhianatan G30S/PKI movie.  
 Muhammad Hatta : Proclamator of Indonesia Independence, the first vice president of Indonesia

## **CHAPTER II SUMMARY**

Aidit: Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara is a book that consists of 143 pages. This book was published by Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia in October 2010. Unlike another book that is made by one person, this book is created by a team. This book tells the story of DN Aidit and the sources of the book itself are taken from the special report of Tempo weekly edition in 2007 until 2010. This book main focus is about DN Aidit, about his ideas, untold stories and his life journey.

This book is divided into 6 sections. The first section of this book presents an introduction of DN Aidit. The first section gives the reader a little piece about of DN Aidit, stories around DN Aidit that is considered as a taboo in

Indonesia, a legendary story which is full with myth. This section is directing the reader about what the book's main issue would be. The stories and ideas about DN Aidit within this section causes a curiosity to the reader, try to keep the reader to get along and read the next sections carefully.

The second part of the book acknowledge about DN Aidit family, childhood and his very first journey to Jakarta. As written in this chapter, DN Aidit was born in Belitung, July 23rd 1923. His father gave him a name Achmad Aidit. Later, Achmad Aidit changed his name into Dipa Nusantara Aidit. Aidit was born in a wealthy family so that he could have many friends from different background and status. As a boy Achmad Aidit was religious, after school he learned to read Quran and he was the Muadzin at the local mosque because of his loud voice. As the reader read the next section they will find three major issues on this section: first is about the family tree of DN Aidit's family, the second is about DN Aidit early time in politics and about his career in Communist party and the last is about DN Aidit love story, maybe this story has never been read before. From the family tree of DN Aidit we could see that DN Aidit has six siblings, and later he will have six children.

As for the closing of the section, there is a love story of Dipa Nusantara Aidit with a girl named Soetanti that later will be his wife. In 1946, DN Aidit first met Soetanti at the office of Bintang Merah Magazine. Soetanti came with her friend and finally knew DN Aidit personally. After that first meeting Soetanti often visited Bintang Merah office to meet DN Aidit, she brought more friends from Sarekat Mahasiswa

Indonesia. Soetanti asked DN Aidit to lecture her and her friends about politics, because at that time DN Aidit had become an important member in the Communist Party branch in Solo. Since that kind of meeting Soetanti often visit DN Aidit in Solo. The next visit was not in Bintang Merah office but in PKI office.

Once upon a time, after DN Aidit was giving a speech he walked towards Soetanti and gave her a letter. DN Aidit asked Soetanti to give the letter to his father, Moedigdo. Soetanti's father was a police officer in Semarang. The letter was a proposal to marry Soetanti and Moedigdo was agreed. Then in 1948, 25 years old DN Aidit was married to 24 years old Soetanti. DN Aidit and Soetanti were married in Islamic ways. There was no wedding party and only attended by close family members. During his life DN Aidit only loved his wife, Soetanti. Before or after the marriage DN Aidit also never had a special relationship with a certain woman. As a man he had a principal, he was anti-polygamy. When DN Aidit was the leader of Communist party the anti-polygamy and anti-affair act became the principal of the Communist Party.

On page 33 until page 43 the book discusses the role of DN Aidit before the proclamation of independent of Indonesia. The journey was begun when DN Aidit entered Menteng 31 boardinghouse which is inhabited by the youth that had the same spirit and vision as DN Aidit. Together with the revolutionary youth DN Aidit did many sabotages and fights with the Dutch and Japan Army. The youth did not only struggle through power but also through negotiation and diplomacy. The most important role of this revolutionary

youth was when they forced Ir. Soekarno and Mohammad Hatta to announce the independence of Indonesia as soon as possible. When Ir. Soekarno and Mohammad Hatta finally rejected their idea the youth decided to bring Ir. Soekarno and Mohammad Hatta to Rengasdengklok. The Rengasdengklok incident could be described as a kidnapping, the youth used this way to change the decision of their older generation. Their plan was successful, after the Rengasdengklok incident Ir. Soekarno and Mohammad Hatta announce the proclamation on August 17th 1945.

The next phase of DN Aidit life was his vision about Communism and his career in the Communist Party. Aidit began to gain interest about communism after he met a guy named Wikana, an underground activist of Communist Party in West Java. Books about Marxism and Communism became his main reading. DN Aidit's passion about Communism gained more after he met Musso who just returned from Uni Soviet. DN Aidit was impressed by Musso's ideas and visions. In 1948 the 25 years old DN Aidit got an important position as a coordinator of labor section in the Communist Party. DN Aidit never gave up on Communist Party. Three years after the Madiun rebellion, DN Aidit overtook the leadership of Communist Party from the old generation. With his comrades Njoto and Lukman, they became the backbone of Communist Party. Under DN Aidit, Njoto and Lukman, Communist Party grew bigger and became the largest Communist Party in non-communist country. In the 1955 election Communist Party succeeded in getting over six millions votes.

The next chapter of the book tells the reader about the chronology of DN Aidit activities after G30S/PKI. October 2nd 1965 morning DN Aidit arrived in Jogjakarta. On that day DN Aidit travelled to 3 cities: Jogjakarta, Semarang and Solo. DN Aidit met the leader of PKI in those areas and held a meeting about G30S. On October 5th 1965 he DN Aidit went to Blitar and held a meeting together with PKI's Politbiro. He spent his last days in Solo, he hid in Solo and finally was captured on November 22nd 1965 and on November 23rd 1965 he was executed in Boyolali.

The exact location of where DN Aidit was buried is still mysterious. This topic is discussed on page 79 until 83. Some people believed DN Aidit was buried on an old well behind the base of 444 Battalion in Boyolali, 25 kilometers from Solo. The location of the grave of DN Aidit was still uncertain because the old well was disappearing without leaving a mark.

The next chapter discusses about the 'victims' of September 30th 1965 tragedy. The family of both DN Aidit and Pahlawan Revolusi family have suffered many pain and trauma. DN Aidit's family good life was destroyed after the horror of G30S. DN Aidit's wife and children were separated away from each other. The daughters of DN Aidit were exiled from Indonesia and moved from one country to another country to survive. As for the family of Pahlawan Revolusi, they still had a trauma even after 40 years. Their trauma could not be easily erased because they witnessed the death of their husband or their father.

From page 105 until page 112 the book discussed about DN Aidit's visualization on a movie entitled

Pengkhianatan G30S/PKI. This movie was directed by Arifin C. Noer and was produced in 1982. DN Aidit's role was played by Syu'bah Asa. Syu'bah Asa had a difficulty in describe DN Aidit, there were no reliable source about DN Aidit because his family had spread abroad. Finally, Syu'bah Asa dug the information about DN Aidit from Amarzan Ismail Hamid, Amarzan was a poet who knows DN Aidit personally. Amarzan told Syu'bah Asa that DN Aidit did not have a big charisma unlike another Communist leader like Mao Zedong and Ho Chi Minh. Apart from the pros and contras about Pengkhianatan G30S/PKI, one thing that could not be denied, the people of 70's generation and later get the only visualization of DN Aidit from the movie.

The last chapter of the book was about the books about DN Aidit which was published after the new order regime has fallen. After the reformation era there are many books discussed about DN Aidit for examples: Aidit Sang Legenda, Ibarruri Putri Alam: Anak Sulung DN Aidit, Aidit, Abang, Sahabat dan Guru di Masa Pergolakan, Menolak Menyerah; Menyingkap Tabir Keluarga Aidit, Pergolakan Politik Tentara Sebelum dan Sesudah G30S/PKI and Siapa Menabur Angin Akan Menuai Badai. There are books that are written by DN Aidit's family, the books that are written by Aidit's family acknowledge the reader with the human side of DN Aidit. These books try to 'clean' DN Aidit's name and image.

### **CHAPTER III REVIEW OF THE BOOK**

#### **A. General View about Dipa Nusantara Aidit**

Almost 48 years has passed after the tragedy on September 30th 1965, but many questions still cover the worst tragedy of Indonesia. Behind all mysteries about the tragedy there is a man that is blamed for being the mastermind of the tragedy. Dipa Nusantara Aidit as a leader of PKI (Communist Party of Indonesia) is blamed for the tragedy that cost thousands of human life (it is even said millions).

In 80's and early 90's, every year the government of Indonesia always broadcasted a movie on September 30th. The movie was about G30S/PKI and the antagonist of the movie was DN Aidit and his Communist Party. During that period the movie was the only explanation about what happened in September 30th 1965. As the movie described DN Aidit as an antagonist so the common view and comment about him was always negative.

When discussing about Dipa Nusantara Aidit the thoughts and ideas are mostly negative. Under the Soeharto's regime, Aidit name becomes some kind of taboo that is rarely mentioned. During this 'New Order' era Dipa Nusantara Aidit and his Communist Party or PKI are never heard or discussed because Dipa Nusantara Aidit's idealism and his Communist Party are banned forever in Indonesia. Many books that mention Dipa Nusantara Aidit mostly write a bad side of him. The media give a scary image to Dipa Nusantara Aidit and his Communist Party. Whether it is true or not, below are some negative yet common ideas or thoughts about Dipa Nusantara Aidit:

1. Dipa Nusantara Aidit is cruel and rude. Most of Indonesians have the thoughts and ideas that Dipa Nusantara Aidit is

cruel and rude. The reason behind the thoughts and ideas that Dipa Nusantara Aidit is cruel and rude is that the Indonesians have read and been stuffed with many history books that disfigure Dipa Nusantara Aidit.

2. Dipa Nusantara Aidit and his party PKI are believed as atheist and anti-god.

Indonesians have been indoctrinated that communist is anti-god and atheist. In fact, Communist and Atheism are different idealism. It is also said that Dipa Nusantara Aidit and PKI want to erase the first point of Pancasila, Ketuhanan Yang Maha Esa.

3. Dipa Nusantara Aidit is tricky. Indonesian believed that Dipa Nusantara Aidit is tricky from seeing the Pengkhianatan G30S/PKI movie. On the movie the viewer will get an impression that Dipa Nusantara Aidit is tricky. On the movie Dipa Nusantara Aidit always thinks the plan about G30S movement. We would see a scene when Dipa Nusantara Aidit was smoking, in fact in the real life Dipa Nusantara Aidit does not smoke

B. Different View About Dipa Nusantara Aidit After Reading The Book

After reading the book and understand the content of the book the reader will acknowledge different point of view about DN Aidit. The reader would achieve a new thought and see Dipa Nusantara Aidit as 'normal' person. The book also provides more complete stories of DN Aidit and can see DN Aidit objectively. Below are other views of Dipa Nusantara Aidit that will be found within the book:

1. Dipa Nusantara Aidit came from a religious family. Dipa Nusantara Aidit was always identified as Communist even atheist.

But when we learn about Dipa Nusantara Aidit's history we could find that Dipa Nusantara Aidit came from religious family. On his childhood Dipa Nusantara Aidit was a Muadzin on the local mosque. After school Dipa Nusantara Aidit and his brothers always learned to read Koran. Dipa Nusantara Aidit had finished reading Koran or Qatam.

2. As a man Dipa Nusantara Aidit is very faithful towards his wife. He is also anti-polygamy. During his life Dipa Nusantara Aidit only loved a woman, his wife Soetanti. He is very faithful toward his wife and this anti-polygamy act also become 'rule' in his party, PKI. During the glorious time of PKI, many members of PKI were kicked out from the party because of cheating with a woman that is not his wife. Even the vice chairman of PKI was punished because of that 'rule'.

3. Dipa Nusantara Aidit was active in youth movement before and after the proclamation of Indonesia's independent.

Dipa Nusantara Aidit and his comrades in Menteng 31 boardinghouse were an active youth in revolutionary action. It is said that Dipa Nusantara Aidit also involved in Rengasdengklok incident that trigger the proclamation of Indonesia's independent. Dipa Nusantara Aidit also created Angkatan Pemuda Indonesia (API) and become the vice leader. Together with API, Dipa Nusantara Aidit strikes the Japanese army and the Dutch army. Because of his action Dipa Nusantara Aidit was brought to jail in Onrust Island.

4. Dipa Nusantara Aidit is also a poet and book writer.

Dipa Nusantara Aidit wrote poetry from 1946 until 1965. He wrote poetry because his idol Mao Zedong, the Chinese Communist leader, also wrote poetry. Dipa Nusantara Aidit's poetry theme was about his party and revolution. His poetry usually published in *Harian Rakjat* and *Suara Ibukota*. Dipa Nusantara Aidit used his poetry as a media to express his ideas about actual events at that time. Aidit also wrote many books, of course the book was also about Communist Party and revolution. These are some titles of the books which are written by Dipa Nusantara Aidit: *Hajo! Ringkus dan Ganjang Kontra-Revolusi*, *Kaum Tani Mengganjang Setan-Setan Desa*, *Konfrontasi Peristiwa Madiun 1948*, *Peristiwa Sumatera 1956*, etc.

C. Personal Comments About The Book

When someone finished doing something they must have some impression, opinion or comment about that thing. It is the same when someone finished reading a book, there must be an impression, opinion or comment about the book. Below are some comments and opinion of the writer about the book:

1. The book is very good because the book provides the reader the story of Dipa Nusantara Aidit that is still unknown or rarely discussed in another media.

2. The book uses many sources and the source is reliable. The reader could find information about Dipa Nusantara Aidit and other phenomenon on the book from different view.

3. The chapters of the book are coherent. The stories of Dipa Nusantara Aidit are told smoothly so that the reader could easily understand the content of the book.



4. The book takes information and comment from the person personally involved in the events.

5. The book also uses images to add the details of the events. However the writer thinks that it is better if the images are in color not black and white.

#### **CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION**

It is said that book is the window of the world. The meaning of that saying is when someone is reading a book he could learn or experience the thing that is very far from him. The book also could give the reader about the events that happened long time ago. In short, book gives information, knowledge and value for the reader. And as the paper discussed about Aidit: Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara book so the writer hoped that the reader could get a positive value and message from the book.

Aidit: Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara is a book about the most controversial person in Indonesia's history. The book tells about two different sides about Dipa Nusantara Aidit, the book discussed about why this man become a taboo in Indonesia and at the other side also discussed about his journey until his death. This book provide a complete stories about Dipa Nusantara Aidit, there are stories that rarely known by people, also the stories that being told by Dipa Nusantara Aidit's family and friends and there are also stories from the books that described him as cruel and tricky leader of PKI.

Overall Aidit: Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara is a good book, the book contains complete information about Dipa Nusantara Aidit and the sources of the book are credible and reliable. There are many positive and good stories about Dipa Nusantara Aidit, but the writer discussed this book not to 'clean'

Dipa Nusantara Aidit's name. The writer chooses this book because of its unique value that the reader could learn from such a fallen figure like Dipa Nusantara Aidit. From the book we could learn that there are people that totally good or totally bad.

To conclude the paper, the writer would like to lend Ir. Soekarno's famous saying "JASMERAH: jangan sekali-sekali melupakan sejarah". That saying means that we could not forget about the past or history. There are things that could be learnt from history, in this case by knowing Dipa Nusantara Aidit's history we should managed to pick the good values from him and we should learn about his mistake.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Aidit, Sobron. 2005. *Penalti Tanpa Wasit*. Jakarta: PT. Gramedia Widiasarana Indonesia.
- Tempo, 2010. *Aidit: Dua Wajah Dipa Nusantara*. Jakarta: Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia.
- Chang,J. & Halliday,J. 2007. *Mao: The Unknown Story*. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Sadili,H & Echols J M. 2003. *Kamus Inggris Indonesia*. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- 1.1.