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Hist 305

Op-Ed Essay mining

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Mining industry develops an area, and it can not be denied. However, it is skeptical for a question whether mining industry benefit the residents’ life. In fact, mining industry damages local living; famers are damaged the most. The damage is significant, and it makes mining company go the hard way.

Mining have been a good industry that causes development of cities and economy. For instance, Butte, Montana is the best case that shows how mining cause development of an area: Butte is a mine city of pre-war and power plant city of post-war. Before the great war, increased demand of copper led the development of mining industry in Butte. The copper mining reached the top during the great war, and it declined afterward. One notable thing is that energy industry is followed by mining industry. When mining is end, mine city falls, and it is natural. However, Butte regained its economy by developing energy industry.

Panama follows the case of Butte. In the article of *Latin American Perspective* Fisher explained, “further exploration showed that there was gold and silver in the area, and after this discovery the partnership sought to invest USD 6.2 billion in the mine to produce 87000 ounces of gold and 1.5 million ounces” (74).[[1]](#footnote-1) There is a huge amount of buried gold and silver, and it is sure that mining will stimulate the economy: gold rush causes fast and instant development of a region.[[2]](#footnote-2) Fisher also explained, “energy and mining activities are interrelated, as they share settings of resource extraction”.[[3]](#footnote-3) As the government of Panama also plans the energy industry, development of mining is an important deal. However, there is a problem for Panama to develop the mine. The problems is that Panama needs to build infrastructure and the residents believe that the infrastructure will not benefit them.

Mining infrastructure cause pollutions, and the pollution devastate residents’ living. Mining in Butte polluted the air.[[4]](#footnote-4) The mine in Butte was deep, so miners needed air pump to refresh the air. As the air inside of mine was refreshed, the outside air was polluted. Eventually, the pollution became toxic enough to kill livestock. The residents in Panama think mining will cause pollution like the mining in Butte did, and they will not change their thought until there is

The economy will be stimulated, but it is not sure if the local economy will be stimulated. For example, infrastructure in Katanga did not really stimulate the local economy. In Katanga, miners moved to Katanga region for working as they contracted.[[5]](#footnote-5) The increased population caused increment in total consumption, so there was economic growth. However, this economic growth did not benefit the local economy. The reason is that the mining company took the most benefit. The miners used the accommodation of the company, and they consumed the supply from the company; there was no role for the residents in the closed economy. It is hard to think that the residents of Panama will benefit much from the economic growth. The miners will come from the other region, and they will not spend much money in Panama.

The residents of Panama protest the mining, and the development of mining is stuck.[[6]](#footnote-6) Since the delaying will cause significant loss as it becomes longer, the government needs to get down to the business as soon as possible. However, mining will not be processed unless the government suggests specific solutions or rewards.

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