

Where Earth Stomp: History of Malay (Malay Version)

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Commentary

For many people, history is a boring subject, filled with dates, names and misleading war. In Malaysia, many history books are written from the point of view of the authorities, including the colonial government instead of people. This book tries to convey the views of the public, which of course is different. This Malaya history book is readable and understandable. The book starts from before the Malacca Sultanate until the independence of Malaya on 31 August 1957, and among other things, tells dispute colonial powers to dominate Melaka, rebellion against colonial domination of Portuguese, Dutch, British and Japanese as well as the struggle for independence, including the political parties and the labor movement role. This book reminded Malaysians about the glorious heritage of the struggle of the people of the motherland.

This book was designed and produced during the height of the wave of student activism that spread to all institutions of higher learning in Malaysia and Singapore in the mid-1970s. Around the world (North America, Australia, New Zealand and others), the Malaysian students in foreign countries are united in supporting the struggle. In the United Kingdom, the student movement is organized by the Federation of the United Kingdom and Eire Malaysian and Singaporean Student Organizations. Authors of this book are encouraged by the overwhelming interest in the economic and political development in the country, as shown by their university colleagues. They decided to produce a popular work about the history of Malaysia so that young citizens can understand the issues and events that lead to the formation of Malaysia. It is clear from this book that the publisher takes a somewhat different perspective than conventional textbooks.

Stories of history are an interpretation of events by historians. Their narration will certainly be characterized by the values of their holdings. Therefore, an insurgent might be seen as an exemplary hero, or he may be regarded as bad people who should be shunned. Historical events may be glorified or their interests may not be hyped, ignored or, worse, distorted. What is national identity of Malaysians? An honest attempt to define the identity of Malaysian citizens cannot pretend not to see the causes of its history. The book is filled with bright and accurate information, events and anecdotes that explain how each of the three major ethnic groups of Malays, Chinese and Indians has contributed to the construction of Malaysia.

Malaysia's history is presented through a somewhat different perspective because in this book, the role of economic exploitation given the leading position in the formation of the Malaysian society. There are many interesting piece that may not make it the standard history textbooks. Facts and figures in this book often spurred by the wit and sarcasm, paintings and propulsion in chronological structure. The book also makes the reader consider unmatched scenarios.

The British government deliberately implementing the policy of divides and rule. However, through close cooperation and trust, ordinary citizens seized power and independence from the colonial powers. After independence, Malaysia faces important issues potentially divisive. Community and political leaders will not succeed in guiding the different ethnic groups to public approval if they do not practice tolerance. Today Malaysia needs leaders who are color-blind, guided by the principles of justice purely and simply listens to the needs. Malaysia should have open-minded leaders who care enough to feel empathy for the fears and concerns of other communities. The public should be given a sense of belonging heroes of their history.

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