

MALAY HERITAGE OF SINGAPORE



Synopsis

This book aims to provide a substantive account of major aspects of Malay life in Singapore, drawing upon a rich history and regional ethnic cultures that shaped the Malay community. Researched essays provide valuable insights into important moments in Malay history, while other chapters describe the rich cultural achievements of the Malays.

In Singapore's ancient history, Malay life may be traced as far back as the 7th to 11th centuries, during the Sri Vijaya period, and to the Majapahit empire in the 14th century. The book also charts the progression of the Malay community through colonial times, war and political strife in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The early settlers were engaged in trade and politics and set up the old port town in the Kampong Gelam, Rochor and Kallang area, bringing with them many subcultures from their original homes in island Southeast Asia. Among them came the Javanese, Bugis, Baweanese, Minangs, Banjaris and many other ethnic groups that enriched the tapestry of Malay life with literary and folkloric influences, visual arts, decorative and architectural styles, beliefs and rituals, family structure and traditions, village and community life, and past-times and entertainment. Over time, independence, and nationhood, the Malay community thrived alongside other migrant communities in Singapore, its rich heritage a part of the nation's cultural assets today.

The book is lavishly illustrated with more than 556 maps, photographs and other illustrative materials to enhance each of the 16 chapters.

The book is graced by a Foreword by Mr S R Nathan, former President of the Republic of Singapore.

The book can be purchased at the Visitor Services counter of The Malay Heritage Centre, 85 Sultan Gate, Singapore 198501.