

Book Review ‘Malay Civilization - Second Edition’ (Malay Version)

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Written and compiled with additional by Mohd Arof Ishak, this book captures the knowledge of the Malay civilization for viewing and benefit the public. This is because the Malay civilization is the foundation of an independent Malay race. The book is expected to help the struggle to defend the Malays from the loss of identity, religion, race or sovereignty of their homeland. The Malay world has hundreds of thousands of government and small government in which part of the state was once the center of commerce, religious, scientific and intellectual unsurpassed once. The Malay civilization is like natural treasures cultural heritage. We do not want the important events of the Malay civilization loss through the development and passage of time.

For such a long period, approach to the elaboration of the history of Southeast Asia and its content was determined by foreign writers and scholars to the Southeast Asian region. That is, whether the writers are foreigners, and many of whom have their own ideas about the mechanism or the history of human development, such as that human progress is an achievement by some particular race only. Or resources to their interpretations of the history of Southeast Asia are the only foreign sources, which must also contain its own prejudices.

In the case of Southeast Asia, a common approach or the traditional way has put the Southeast Asian region as not directly important in the development of human history; on the contrary, the people of Southeast Asia are educated to see the greatness of the role of other races in history. Such tendency among writers and scholars might be understood on the basis of information or evidence that is specific to a particular time. But also cannot be denied that there is a shadow bias that consistently tends to show the greatness of India and China, something that is not based on the full truth. And there is also a much thickened prejudice to any new information or new data that may suggest a new history or prehistory, something against the grain of traditional thinking. However are also scholars and researchers who lately have appeared to be more open, and more critical, and began to receive new discoveries, and ready redefined prehistory as well as Southeast Asian history, even prehistory and history of the Asian continent itself.

The presentation of the book is about one big thing in the prehistory and history of the Asian continent, the Malay Community of civilization, a civilization that stretched wide, crossing the boundaries of commonly understood Southeast Asia generally. International scholars and researchers often use Malay terms (namely Malayan or Indonesian), Malayo-Polynesian and Austronesian, interchangeably to refer to the people of this great civilization. The author chose to use the term Malay (or Malays) and the Community of Malay (or the Malay peoples) for reasons described. In Southeast Asia, the Malay term for referring to the big family of the Malays that are a common use from Malaysia up to the most northern Malay Peninsula to Segenting Kra (now in Thailand, and partly in the country of Myanmar), in the Philippines, in Indonesia and also in the past in Cambodia and in Vietnam today.

The author also uses the term Malay Community frequently in this book. It means a great family what is often summarized as the Malays only. If within the English language, Malay Community Race and Malay Community is the Malay peoples, because the Malays are indeed diverse. The author also uses terms Malayo-Polynesian and Austronesian from time to time in this book to refer to this big family of Malay race. Austronesian and Malayo-Polynesian terms are the academic term. It is also important to stress that the author use the term race or ethnic group in this book is in good faith, for the purpose of knowledge rather than negative elements or prejudice. Efforts in this book are more a re-arrangement of the various research and discoveries made by many people in a variety of studies over the past few decades. It is not a lot in this works which is the author's own projections. The majority of works in this book have been made in the mid-1980s and the manuscript has been abandoned for some time until a new stimulus arising motivation or to set up, and many updates have been done before the decision was made to publish this book. The author hopes that this book will continue to be in demand and a source of reference because this is the only book the most comprehensive and up to date facts about the nature of Malay civilization has produced. With this book only the whole narrative of the important and major about the Malay civilization can be known.

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