

# Malaysian politics under Mahathir

Economic success and authoritarian government have been the hallmarks of Mahathir Mohamad's administration. Since Mahathir became prime minister in 1981, the Malaysian economy has grown dramatically and Mahathir has remained firmly in control of the political scene throughout.

Malaysian politics have been decisively shaped by Mahathir and this book provides a balanced and detailed account of his character, ideas, and temperament. The social and political scene in Malaysia is examined, as are the Prime Minister's successes such as the careful management of ethnic tensions between Malays and Chinese, the program of modernization and industrialization, and his emergence as a champion of Third World causes. Mahathir's faults are also honestly examined, including his preference for grandiose projects and his failure to check corruption. The abrupt dismissal from office, arrest and trial of Anwar Ibrahim, Mahathir's deputy, in late 1998, and their implications, are assessed.

The recent economic crisis in Asia has had a major impact on certain Southeast Asian states including Malaysia. *Malaysian Politics under Mahathir* considers these recent developments and their implications for Malaysia's, and Mahathir's, future.

**R.S. Milne** is Emeritus Professor and has held professorships at the University of British Columbia, Singapore University, London University and Victoria University, New Zealand. **Diane K. Mauzy** is Professor of Political Science at the University of British Columbia. Both have published widely on Malaysia and Southeast Asia.

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**R.S. Milne and Diane K. Mauzy**



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