

POLITICS
AND
GOVERNMENT
IN MALAYSIA

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R.S. Milne and Diane K. Mauzy

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PREFACE

This book was originally intended to be a revised edition of R.S. Milne's *Government and Politics in Malaysia* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1967). However, there have been substantial political changes during the last ten years: the May 1969 riots and the temporary suspension of parliamentary rule; the replacement of Tunku Abdul Rahman as Prime Minister by Tun Razak, and, on Tun Razak's death, the succession of Datuk Hussein Onn; changes in the party system, particularly the formation of the National Front; the adoption of neutrality in foreign policy; the Government's New Economic Policy. These changes called for what was essentially a new book, and, apart from the three introductory chapters, about seventy per cent of the material is new. This book is also distinguished from the previous one by the omission of politics in Singapore (except where it affects Malaysia), and by the joint authorship with Diane K. Mauzy, resulting in a fresh view of some aspects of Malaysian politics.

Apart from written materials, published and unpublished, the book is based on over a hundred interviews, as well as a number of less structured conversations, mostly in 1974 and 1975. Very few of these are cited, but they were important in enabling the authors to get the "feel" of Malaysian politics, which cannot be gathered from published sources. The interviews were mostly with politicians (from every party), but also with civil servants, academics, journalists, professional people and businessmen. It is impossible to thank all of these individually here, but the information they gave was very helpful and the interviews were enjoyable.

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