

MALAYSIAN STRATEGIC RESEARCH CENTRE



MALAYSIA'S DEFENCE & FOREIGN POLICIES

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The thawing of the Cold War has brought about significant changes globally. It has meant that states have to adapt to these changes, which are still taking place, as the strategic environment is still very much in transition. When things are in transit, it is naturally very difficult to adapt to the circumstances as the shape of the new world is still uncertain. Therefore, given the current state of flux of the global milieu, Malaysia's biggest challenge for the future is to try to influence these changes, in order for the nation, and the region, to continue to prosper and remain peaceful. To sustain growth, both domestic and regional security must be stable. And to ensure that the strategic environment remains stable, both defence and foreign policies are important.

This book examines the challenges facing Malaysian defence and foreign policies leading to the 21st century against the country's vision of transforming itself into a developed nation by the year 2020. It looks at the future roles of the Malaysian Armed Forces in the context of regional defence in the post-Cold War era as well as determine the implications for Malaysia's defence and foreign policies in the thrust towards Vision 2020. The importance of Southeast Asia and the role of major powers like the United States, China, Japan, Russia and India in influencing the formulation of Malaysian foreign policy are also analysed.

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