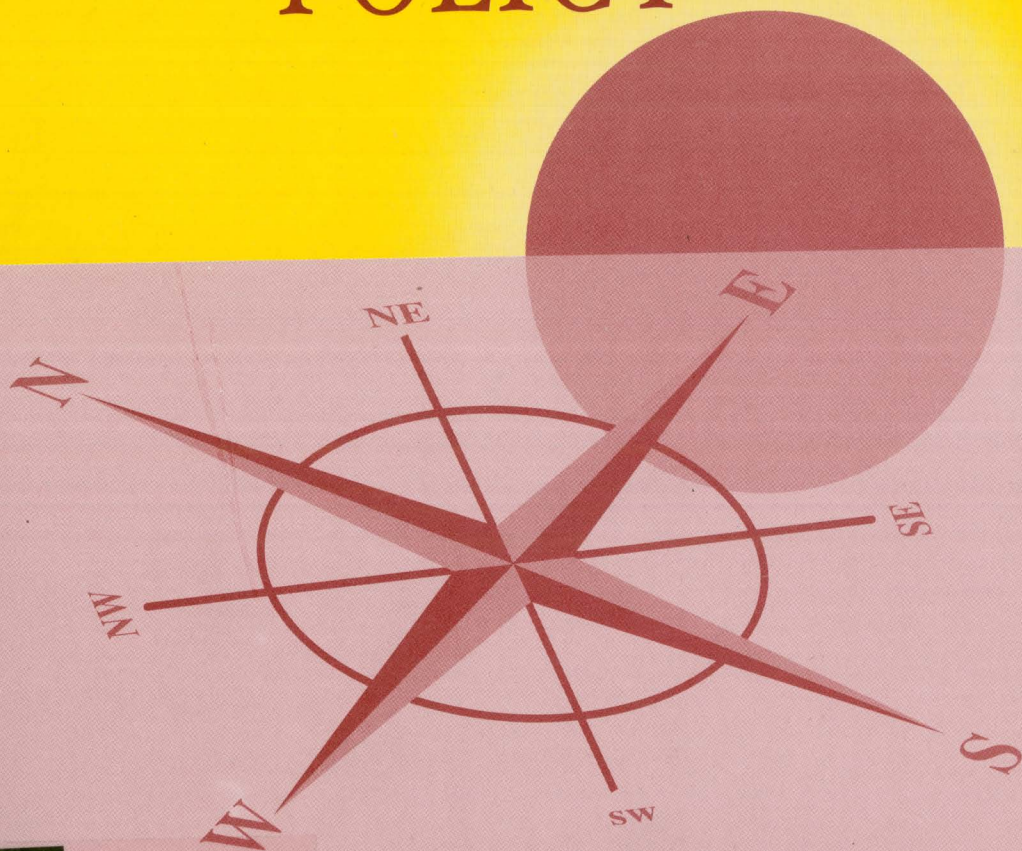


# WHITHER THE LOOK EAST POLICY



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**KHADIJAH MD. KHALID**  
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## Preface

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This book is the result of a suggestion by Professor Rahman Embong, a colleague of Lee Poh Ping of the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), UKM, that some evaluation be made of the Look East policy. We find the suggestion to be particularly opportune as there have been developments since the launching of the policy, such as the Japanese economic malaise and the Asian financial crisis, which have greatly discredited the Japanese model in the eyes of many. Many naturally will ask whether the Look East policy is still valid given such developments. Also the time that has elapsed since the launch of the policy (some twenty years or so) provides some concrete basis to answer the question and to consider the future of the model. In making this evaluation, this book considers on one hand the theoretical aspects of the policy and on the other, the concrete political and economic interests involved in this policy, and also in the bilateral Malaysia-Japan relationship.

In essence, this book argues that to make an objective evaluation one has to separate that aspects of the model that have brought about impressive economic growth, the conquest of many markets in the world, and managerial and technological innovations from the social-cultural and developmental (as it pertains to the role of the state) aspects. Most Malaysians no longer take the former aspects seriously but believe however that the concern of the model for the harmonisation of market forces with social stability is still valid. They also continue to believe that the state has a crucial role in such harmonisation.

Chapters two and three are revised chapters taken from the Ph.D thesis by Khadijah Md. Khalid entitled "Malaysia-Japan Relations: Explaining the Root Causes of the Pro-Japan Orientation

of Malaysia in the Post-1981 Period. This thesis was last submitted to the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London in September 1999.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Rahman Embong for his suggestion and encouragement in the writing of this book. Thanks are also due to Ohira Foundation, Japan, for the support that made the writing of this book possible.

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