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Dispelling the myth of White superiority

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I PICKED up my 14-year-old cousin, Yann, from school last week and on the way home I casually asked her about her day. "Boring, we had history class, Malaysia is always been conquered by the Dutch, English and Portuguese. What relevance is that to us today?"

I then replied, "Last night, when we went out, were you not wearing Armani jeans, Converse shoes and ... T-shirt. Aren't you and your friends being conquered by the White Man? The only difference is that years ago we saw them as invaders, barbarians, uncouth conquerers, yet now their invasion is so well camouflaged that we don't recognise them as our enemies. In fact, we welcome them with open arms. Why eat McDonald's and not Ramli burger? Our mamak and hawker stalls are the authentic fast-food chain, yet our younger generation would be appalled at this comparison. How about buying their clothing from pasar malam."

As a Malaysian born and bred in this country and proud of my heritage, I fully support Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's comment on Oct 4 when he said, "We don't have to believe everything the White Man says."

The point I am making is, how do we translate this very simple but profound message to our younger generation to prevent them from being tempted in their formative years from the influence of the White Man, which will inevitably affect their values, consumer patterns and lifestyles?