

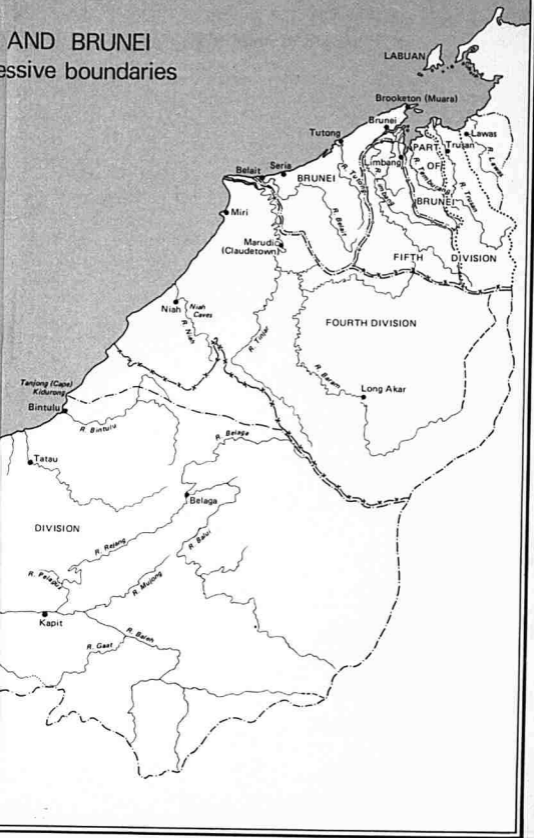
In 1946 a century of White Rajah rule came to an end in Sarawak when the Borneo state was ceded to Britain by Vyner Brooke. In fact by the 1930s Brooke rule had probably already passed its prime and there were already signs of political consciousness among the Kuching Malays. However, while nationalist movements in other parts of South-East Asia fought to end European rule, the Malays of Sarawak in the aftermath of the Second World War in 1945 clamoured for the perpetuation of the Brooke Raj. When extremists assassinated the British Governor of Sarawak in 1949, this anti-cession movement collapsed, but a nationalist tradition had been established which would later serve to legitimize the post-colonial leadership. This fascinating study based on hitherto unpublished documents, detailed research and personal interviews examines the last decade of Brooke rule and explains cogently the 1946 cession with reference not only to British imperial policy in South-East Asia but to dynastic politics and the failure of Brooke rule to adapt to change.

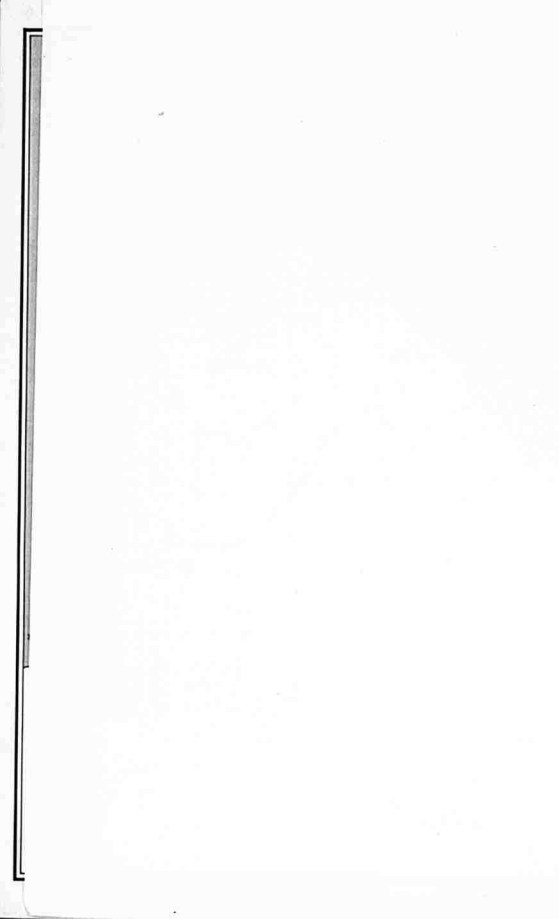
Cover illustration

Sarawak Centenary Day, 24 September 1941. The Rajah, the Ranee and C. D. Le Gros Clark (Chief Secretary) leaving the Government Offices. The Sarawak flag is on the left of the doorway. (Courtesy the late B. C. J. Spurway)

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ressive boundaries





The Name of Brooke