

READINGS IN
**MALAYSIAN
POLITICS**

Edited by
Bruce Gale



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Preface

This volume grew out of the realization that, although the study of Malaysian politics continues to be enriched by the writings of both local and foreign scholars, the results of many recent studies have remained relatively inaccessible to non-specialists. Academic contributions tend to remain buried in the pages of academic journals with circulations confined largely to the libraries of interested tertiary institutions.

The publication of this collection of articles is an attempt to give the academic literature a wider audience. It is hoped that journalists, businessmen and academics, as well as students following courses on Malaysian politics and society, will find the analyses provided in this book helpful in understanding the political developments of recent years.

For the convenience of readers, the articles have been grouped in the book according to subjects. Within each category there is inevitably some repetition of themes. However, requiring each contributor to rewrite his or her article in order to eliminate such repetitions would have involved a considerable delay in publication. In any case, the amount of repetition involved is minimal. The articles reprinted in each category were selected precisely because they offered different, and sometimes contrasting perspectives.

The first section contains three articles on electioneering. Diane Mauzy examines the 1982 election campaign, the first to be conducted after Dr. Mahathir became Prime Minister. She offers several explanations for the DAP's apparent decline and discusses aspects of the struggle between UMNO, Berjasa and PAS for the Malay vote. My own contribu-