

MALAYA



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MALAYA

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The maps and figures in this book are based on the following sources. Maps 1-7, 10, 17, and 19-26, as well as figure 2, are from M. V. Del Tufo, Malaya: A Report on the 1947 Census of Population (London: Crown Agents for the Colonies, 1949). Maps 8, 9, 11, 12, and 14 are taken from selected topographic sheets, Federation of Malaya Survey Department, Kuala Lumpur. Various Federation of Malaya government maps and text sources were used for Maps 13 and 16. Map 15 is derived from reports of the UNESCO Commission on Technical Needs in Press, Film, Radio, and reports of the UNESCO Department of Mass Communication; the base is from Goode's Series of Outline Maps, No. 227, ed. Henry M. Leppard (Chicago: University of Chicago Press). Map 18 is after Purcell and others, and Map 27 from The Pattern of Asia, ed. Norton Ginsburg (New York: Prentice-Hall, 1958). Figures 1 and 4 are based on information from The Economist and the Singapore press as well as The Pattern of Asia. Figure 3 is from Granville St. John Orde-Browne, Labour Conditions in Ceylon, Mauritius, and Malaya (London: H. M. Stationery Office, 1943).

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Preface

ON AUGUST 31, 1957, a new state made its appearance on the political map of Asia. The former Federation of Malaya took its place among the several Asian nations which have acquired their independence since the end of World War II. The process of self-determination, which has been transforming southern and southeastern Asia from a region of colonies and dependencies to an area of independent states, has almost run its course.

It is fitting, therefore, that some attempt be made to examine the new Malaya in light of the systems of organization that have characterized the old. In this analysis it has been considered necessary to include Singapore, which has functioned traditionally as the primary city for the Federation, even though it has retained its identity as a separate and not yet independent political unit. Thus, Singapore and the Federation have been considered together as an entity, and the two are discussed under the regional name, Malaya.

This volume, then, is a kind of bench mark, an attempt to provide a descriptive and analytical basis for understanding a new Malaya about to embark on an unpredictable course of independence. It takes due cognizance of the pluralistic character of Malayan society, composed as it is of three major ethnic groups, by individual ethnographic analysis of the Malaysians, Chinese, and Indian communities. It describes and appraises the environmental, social, economic, and political characteristics of Malaya. In addition, it analyzes some of the key problems that face Malaya as a whole, especially those dealing with communication among its several communities, political organization, and the prospects for balanced