

# JOHOR

*Local History, Local Landscapes*

1855 - 1957



P. Lim Pui Huen



*The timelessness of early morning on the Straits of Johor*



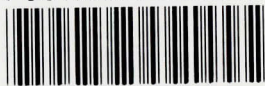
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**thinkcity**

REJUVENATING THE CITY TOGETHER



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*State Government Secretariat (now Sultan Ibrahim Building)*



# Foreword

The novel *Evening Is The Whole Day*, by Malaysian author Preeta Samarasan, has a description of Peninsular Malaysia like no other: “There is, stretching delicate as a bird’s head from the thin neck of the Kra Isthmus, a land that makes up half of the country called Malaysia. Where it dips its beak into the South China Sea, Singapore hovers like a bubble escaped from its throat” Johor is that beak, caressed by the waves of the waters from three sides: the South China Sea, the Straits of Malacca, and the narrow Straits of Johor. It has a rich and exciting history and has developed into a unique state so diverse and different from the others in many ways with its own unique “conjunctures, confluences, and contestations”

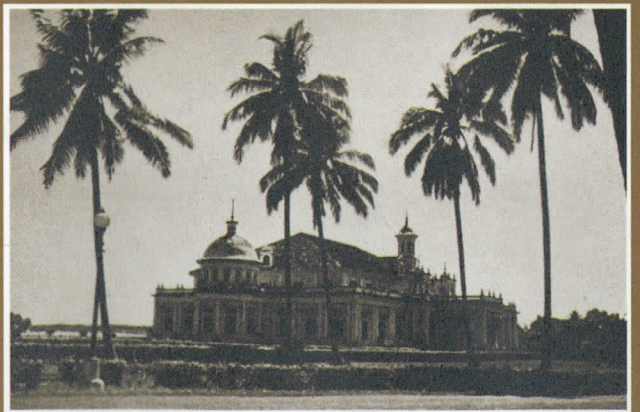
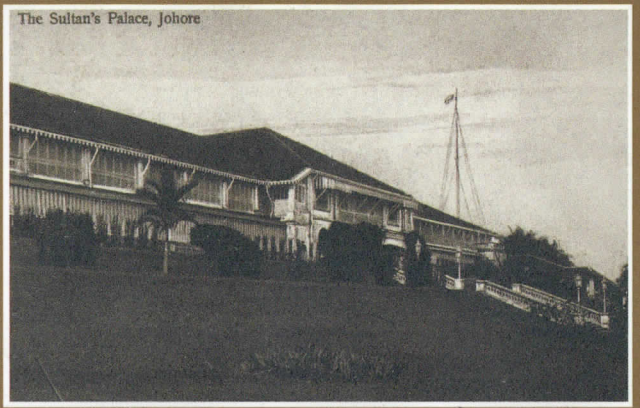
That history and its development into one of the most prosperous states in Malaysia has not been well known because history is often about dramas and disasters. This book, like no other, tells us its story and evolution through historical maps and photographs, and by recounting the sagas of many different communities from numerous geographical regions and how they evolved into making the state as developed as it is now. Of particular interest were the insights into how its capital city, Johor Bahru, blossomed into its present strength. JB (as it is popularly known) depended on two key platforms: first, as the base of the royal court, and the cradle of Johor’s forward-looking stance; second, as a commercial hub for which the city took full advantage of its location, with a bridge that spanned the Straits of Johor and connected to Bukit Timah Road that led directly to the global entrepôt of the city-state Singapore.

Think City joined this remarkable journey in June 2016 at the behest of Khazanah Nasional Berhad, which was engaged in major initiatives in JB. It was tasked particularly through community and state partnerships to assist in triggering the rejuvenation of JB together in ways that developed its unique heritage and also bring value-added development.

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