

A close-up portrait of Dato' Onn Jaafar, wearing a black songkok and glasses, looking slightly to the left. The background is a light, neutral color.

Reinventing History

The Myth of Dato' Onn Jaafar The Forgotten Hero

DATO' ONN WAS ONE OF THE FEW MALAY LEADERS WITH MANY APPELLATIONS: THE FATHER OF MALAY NATIONALISM, THE FOUNDER OF UMNO AND THE FALLEN MALAY LEADER. THIS BOOK RECOUNTS A MAN'S LIFETIME OF DEVOTION TO HIS COUNTRY, WHICH WAS INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THE ART OF POLITICAL SURVIVAL, DECEPTION AND REJECTION.

PARIDAH ABD SAMAD

Author of the Malaysia National Library's
Best Book of the Year 2010

A logo for the Perdana Leadership Foundation, featuring a stylized blue and white graphic of a flag or a similar symbol.

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The life of Dato' Onn was decorated with lucrative political success and blunders. The most momentous of Dato' Onn's contributions was his struggle against the Malayan Union. The fall of the Malayan Union meant that the rights of the Malay Sultans would be protected from dissolution and subsequent irrelevance. He had miraculously achieved political unity at a national level during a critical time, which led to the formation of UMNO. Until now, history has shown that he was the only Malay leader of his time who successfully gathered millions of Malays, receiving support from all the Sultans and the people to regain the dignity and integrity of a country that had previously been lost for centuries under foreign domination. A lifetime of service was accomplished by a man who became overshadowed by his political miscalculations. This book presents a revisionist view of the story of an impeccable man with immortal legacies.

Jacket Design : Aziz Salleh

Photographs: Yayasan Warisan Johor



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Partisan Publication ✕



YWJ CITRA ✕



Yayasan Warisan Johor

PUSTAKA PERDANA



1008971



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The Myth of Dato' Onn Jaafar: The Forgotten Hero

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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Paridah Abd. Samad, 1952-

The Myth of Dato' Onn Jaafar: the forgotten
hero / Paridah Abd. Samad.

Bibliography : p.

ISBN 978-983-99417-7-7

1. Onn Jaafar, Dato', 1895-1962.
2. Politicians--Malaysia--Biography.
3. Malaysia--Politics and government.
4. Malaysia--History. I. Title. 923,2595

Printed in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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*To my dearest daughters Dr. Tidi Maharani and Dr. Astrid (Iin).
To be ignorant of what happened before you were born is to be forever a child.
Learn from people of the past so you are not condemned to repeat their mistake.*

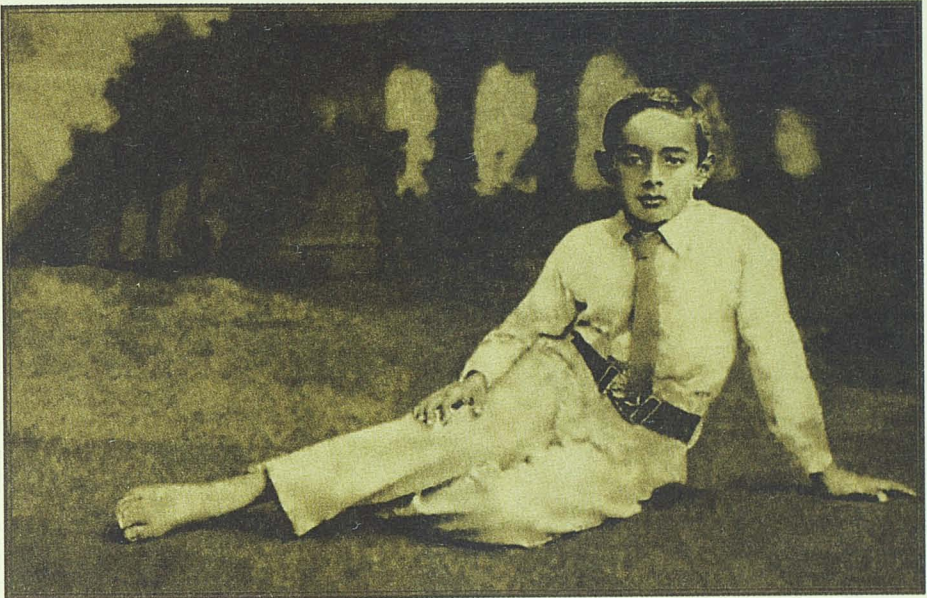


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DATO' ONN JAAFAR



Dato' Onn, aged nine as a student at the Alderburgh Lodge School, Suffolk, England



Dato' Onn, aged seven with the sons of Sultan Ibrahim; Tunku Ahmad, Tunku Abu Bakar, Tunku Ismail and his British friend



Sultan Abu Bakar (1833-1895)



Sultan Ibrahim and Dato' Onn



Dato' Onn bowed to Sultan Ismail as a sign of respect during the Sultan's birthday celebration



Tunku Ahmad, the Temenggong of Johore, son of Sultan Ibrahim and Che Dara, sister of Dato' Onn

