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**Table of Contents**

Editor's note .....	1
Periodicals .....	1
Books .....	9
Conferences & Calls for Papers .....	12
Amnesty International.....	12
Prospectus .....	12
Research Staff .....	12

**Editor's Note**

We wish all readers of *Berita* a productive & pleasant 3rd quarter, 2006. Ron & Staff

**Periodicals (Relevant to M/S/B Studies)**

**>Asian affairs**

**V.xxxvii.n.1 - 2006** -- 1) Nicholas J. White, review of Edmund Terence Gomez (ed). 2004. *The State of Malaysia: Ethnicity, Equity and Reform*. xiii, 258 pp. London & NY: RoutledgeCurzon. Hb ISBN 0-4153-3357-1 [... high quality and stimulating essays derive from a 2001 meeting of the Malaysian Social Sciences Association' -- Serve 2 main purposes: a) explain why the opposition reform movement (*Barisan Alternatif*) failed to make major inroads in the 1999 Malaysian elections; and b) to examine some recent policies of the ruling *Barisan Nasional* coalition -- Also, hopes that volume will contribute to ongoing discussions on how to move forward to create a more democratic and just Malaysian society -- And much more in this compact review], pp 116-117.

**>Asian affairs: an American review**

**V.32.n.4 - Wntr 2006** -- 1) Thomas J. Bellows, "Economic challenges and political innovation: the case of Singapore" [Analyzes how Singapore, a developmental state, ranked second most globalized in the world, deals with economic challenges in order to maintain and grow its economic prosperity], pp 231-255.

**> Asian ethnicity**

**V.7.n.1-Feb 2006** -- 1) Gareth Knapman, "Liberal dreams: materialism and evolutionary civil society in the projection of nation in Southeast Asia" [From the Abstract -- Focuses on the introduction of ethnicity into SE Asia as part of 19th century British empire, naturalizing ethnicity thru the concept of civil society, presenting a global vision of societies being independent and emerging from the local landscape; thus these notions of civil society represent an early incarnation of self-determination, framed around opening these civil societies to British trading hegemony], pp 19-35; 2) Rahil Ismail & Brian J. Shaw, "Singapore's Malay-Muslim minority: social identification in a post-'9-11' world" [After the destruction of the World Trade Center, Singapore

government shifted emphasis from modernization and multi-culturalism and concern of growing popularity of private Islamic schools to promotion of 'racial harmony' (the 'get to know your neighbors' theme) in recognition that 40 years of 'racial' assimilation had not produced ethnically integrated, cross-cultural community spirit -- Local and foreign events have impacted Singapore's Malay-Muslim community and challenged its identity within multiethnic Singapore], pp 37-51; 3) Cynthia Joseph, "'It is so unfair here...It is so biased': negotiating the politics of ethnic identification in ways of being Malaysian schoolgirls" [Draws on contemporary theorizations of ethnicity linked to the notion of difference -- Notion of 'Malaysian' problematized as linked to the interplay between nationalistic official and essentialistic labelling, present and historical social and political events and daily experiences of 16-year-old Malaysian schoolgirls -- Argues that the politics of ethnic identification are intertwined with the politics with the politics of difference which in turn is linked to power and inequality], pp 53-73; 4) Vejai Balasubramaniam, "Strengthening ethnic identity consciousness and the role of tactical voting in multi-racial Malaysia" [Discusses how tactical voting in the mixed constituencies has helped the National Front to secure its two-thirds majority in parliament and maintain inter-ethnic calm], pp75-88.

**> Asian folklore studies**

**V.lxiv-2 - 2005** -- 1) Motomitsu Uchibori, review of William D. Wilder (ed), 2003, *Journeys of the soul: paroles desprits*. Borneo Research Council, Monograph Series No.7. xiv, 366 pp. Phillips, Maine: Borneo Research Council, Inc. [A collection of 5 solid ethnographic studies of mortuary notions and practices as observed among 5 indigenous peoples of Sabah (Rungus by George N. Appell & Laura W.R. Appell) and Sarawak (Punan Bah by Ida Nicolaisen; Iban by Clifford Sather; Kelabit by Matthew Amster; and Bidayuh by Pamela Lindell; and William D. Wilder provides the introduction to the volume) in Borneo -- Studies based on papers originally presented at the 1997 annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association], pp 343- 345.

**>Asian studies review**

**V.30.n.1 - Mar 2006** -- 1) Michael D. Barr, "Beyond technocracy: the culture of elite governance in Lee Hsien Loong's Singapore" [From the Conclusion -- The Singapore system of elite governance is a truly remarkable beast, delivering effective, thoroughly modern style of technocratic governance, yet riddled with distortions and failing that make a mockery of basic principles of legitimacy -- The exercise of personal power and operation of privilege and connections actually intrinsic to the operation of the system... and yet the system works], pp 1-17.

**>Asian survey**

**V.xlv.n.6-Nov/Dec 2005** -- 1) Joseph Liow, "The politics behind Malaysia's eleventh general election" [From the Abstract -- Results of Malaysia's 11th general election, March 2004, a resounding success for the Abdullah Badawi administration, but the politics surrounding the election surfaced several issues that would continue to pose a

significant challenge to the new administration, among them: reining in fundamentalist Islam from within UMNO; the question of continued relevance of racial and ethnic yardsticks of legitimacy and authority; and more], pp907-930.

**V.xlvi.n.1-Jan/Feb 2006** -- 1) Robert B. Albritton, "Thailand in 2005: the struggle for democratic consolidation" [From the Abstract -- Peaceful transition of administration thru new elections & an elected majority government bring consolidation of democracy -- Positive picture clouded by continuing Malay insurgency in the south and clouded relations with Malaysia concerning cross-border issues associated with southern insurgency -- Economic shock of sharp decline in tourism and spike in oil prices weathered], pp 140-147; 2) Claudia Derichs, "Malaysia in 2005: moving forward quietly" [From the Abstract -- PM Abdullah Ahmad Badawi asserted grip on domestic affairs, but government still perceived as ineffective -- Economic growth slowed, ringgit unpegged from US dollar, yet stable -- Proactive in foreign relations], pp 168-174; 3) Gary Rodan, "Singapore in 2005: 'vibrant and cosmopolitan' without political pluralism" [From the Abstract -- PM's controversial decision to introduce casinos part of 'remaking' the economy accompanied by officially tolerated public criticism, but other attempts to organize protests on a range of issues subjected to customary suppression that underlies government's continued resistance to political pluralism], pp 180-186.

**V.xlvi.n.2-Mar/Apr 2006** -- 1) Alan Collins, "Chinese educationalists in Malaysia: defenders of Chinese identity" [From the Abstract -- In 2002 Malaysian government announced that English would be the language of instruction in all primary schools for teaching science and math -- Chinese educationalist called it 'The Final Solution' -- Shows how these professionals tried to safeguard the character of Chinese primary schools, by acting as a pressure group against the policy], pp 298-318; 2) Abdul Rashid Moten & Tunku Mohar Mokhtar, "The 2004 general elections in Malaysia: a mandate to rule" [From the Abstract -- The Malaysian ruling coalition received an overwhelming mandate in the 2004 general elections -- The major opposition party, which ran an aggressive campaign for an Islamic agenda, suffered a crushing defeat -- Election results seen as an endorsement of PM Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's moderate style of governance], pp 319-340.

**> Commonwealth comparative politics**

**V.43.n.1-Mar 2005** -- 1) Meredith Weiss, "Prickly ambivalence: state, society and semidemocracy in Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- British colonialism set up subsequent balances between state and civil society in Malaysia such as persistent racial stratification, cross-racial modes of state-society engagement, and focus on development of citizenship skills for some but not all groups -- Explores vestiges and implications of this legacy to assess effect of colonial experiences on later political developments, and how consideration of these civil society and state-society relations that emerged adds nuance to understanding of semi-

democracy], pp 61-81; 2) Harold Crouch, review of Garry Rodan, 2004, *Transparency and authoritarian rule in Southeast Asia*. xvii, 261 pp. London & NY: Routledge Curzon. [ This book part of a series sponsored by the SEA Center, U. of Hong Kong -- Focus on lesson drawn from the Asian economic crisis of 1997, which is that authoritarian 'crony capitalism' is not sustainable in a globalized world economy -- Collapse showed need for 'good governance' with accountability and transparency -- Examines the contrast between relatively good governance of Malaysia and Singapore as compared to other Asian countries -- But Rodan shows that the measures they have taken to increase commercial transparency have fallen short of expectations... high level of secrecy about government-linked companies linked to dominant party in Singapore government and even lesser commercial transparency in Malaysia because of ubiquitous links with the dominant political party... and Rodan shows how both countries maintain tight controls on press and other media -- Concludes that the concepts of 'transparency' and 'information' need to be disaggregated -- Reviewer notes that the book "... provides a welcome sceptical analysis of how integration into the global economic system relates to political change" -- Very positive review ... The two flaws noted by reviewer were a mistake in reporting the results of the 1999 election in Malaysia, and the identification of the Barisan Nasional as an opposition party in Singapore], pp 131-132; 3) Bob Deacon, review of Catherine Jones Finer & Paul Smyth (eds), 2004, *Social policy and the Commonwealth: prospects for social inclusion*. xviii, 247 pp. Basingstoke: Palgrave. [Reviewer briefly mentions chapters on Singapore and Malaysia, noting that the Singaporean Provident Fund was a British invention, and that the chapter on Malaysia concludes that the British Empire exacerbated ethnic divisions and deliberately socially excluded certain sections of the population], pp 153-154.

**>Crossroads: an interdisciplinary journal of Southeast Asian studies**

**V.17.n.2-2006** -- (In a separate letter to subscribers, Dwight King, Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and Caroline Quinlan, Editor for Southeast Asia Publications at NIU, apologize for and note causes of the 3 years delay of publication of *Crossroads*, which begins where it left off (V.17,n.1) in a newly published volume) -- 1) One of the delayed articles is Seng Guan Yeoh's very interesting "House, *kampong* and *taman*: spatial hegemony and the politics (and poetics) of space in urban Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- 'Everyday repression' & 'everyday resistance' offer useful lenses for examining asymmetrical power relationships and life worlds of subalterns -- Discursively framed in James Scott's 'hidden transcripts' and 'public transcripts' -- Explores the utility of these concepts in the ethnographic context of a squatter *kampong vis-à-vis* its neighboring modern housing estate as a heuristic prismatic site refracting linkages & intersections between "traditional" and "modernist" cultural configurations --- Examines varied and non-verbalized forms of spatial hegemony & counter-

hegemony thru the everyday practices of domestic and kampong spaces in juxtaposition with the wider processes of urban capitalism and modernist sensibilities – Suggests that more analytical mileage can be obtained if a less clearly bounded view of 'everyday resistance' is adopted – And equal attention should be paid to unpacking the 'weapons of the powerful' [ed: *Amin!*] which, in this instance, is embodied in the cultural form of modern housing and urban development], pp 128-158.

**>Cultural anthropology**

**V.21.n.1-Feb 2006 -- 1)** Andrew Willford, "The 'already surmounted' yet 'secretly familiar': Malaysian identity as symptom" [From the Abstract -- Hindu reform movements and artistic organizations produce a multicultural narrative for Malaysia that simultaneously asserts difference while negating the state-inspired stereotypical boundaries of ethnic demarcation -- An exacerbated uncertainty of identity among Indians and Malays, as perceived by elite Indians, produces a struggle for symbolic autonomy or transcendence from the ethno-symbolic ordering of the nation-state, ironically manifesting itself in a fetishistic hold of ethnic ideology, despite its ostensible negation of elite Hindus in Malaysia -- This process instructive for understanding local contingencies of identity formation, particularly in its fixated-on form {Hinduism, Malaysia, nationalism, ethnicity, psychoanalysis}], pp 31-59.

**> Current history: a journal of contemporary world affairs**

**V.105.n.690 - Apr 2006 -- 1)** Jon S.T. Quah, "Curbing Asian corruption: an impossible dream?" [In a 'nutshell': "Many leaders have adopted 'hopeless' strategies that perpetuate corruption instead of stifling it" -- Notes that "Only Singapore and Hong Kong have demonstrated the political will to curb corruption"], pp 176-179.

**>Environment and planning A**

**V.38.n.1-Jan 2006 -- 1)** Kai Wen Wong & Tim Bunnell, "'New economy' discourse and spaces in Singapore: a case study of one-north" [From the Abstract -- Examines government-led attempts to transform Singapore into, or for, a so-called 'new economy' -- On how 'new economy' can be understood as a powerful discourse rationalizing a range of policy and planning interventions -- Focuses on 'one-north', a would-be technopole for biomedical, information technology and media industries in the southwest of Singapore -- How the planning has included selection and reworking of residential areas as 'little bohemia's' conducive for fostering new-economy cultures -- Gaining prominence following the Asian financial crisis in late 1990s, one-north contextualized in terms of broader new-economy interventions by the Singapore state with resonances for similar initiatives elsewhere], pp 69-83.

**V.38.n.2 Feb-2006 -- 1)** Yoke Sum Wong, "When there are no pagodas on Pagoda Street: language, mapping and navigating ambiguities in colonial Singapore" [From the Abstract -- What does it mean to constitute the landscape in language? -- Addresses complications of navigating 19th-century colonial landscape in Singapore with its complex web

of mobilities emerging from multiple knowledges -- Despite official street names, different groups possessed different names and references for the very same streets, even within the same language; and how can people know of a place if it is inscribed by the interplay among different cultural and linguistic worlds -- Draws from Wittgenstein and Derrida in engaging linguistic assumptions governing mobility in the multilayered colonial space of Singapore, in which the same street is always a different street that is experienced differently by various kinds of people], pp 325-340.

**>Ethnic and racial studies**

**V.29.n.2 - Mar 2006 -- 1)** Michael Howard, review of **Brenda S.A. Yeoh & Katie Willis (eds)**, 2004, ***State/nation. transnation: Perspectives on transnationalism in the Asia-Pacific***. xvii, 272 pp. London & NY: Routledge. [In the "Introduction" the editors and S.M. Abdul Khader Fakhri view globalization as posing challenges to the nation-state thru the ease that information, capital and people are able to move across borders -- Stephen Castles notes that at present some states such as Malaysia are still expelling illegal immigrants while other such as Vietnam are making it easier for overseas nationals to maintain dual citizenship -- Tim Brunnell's chapter looks at efforts by the Malaysian government to attract skilled workers and how this relates to changing government policies as it shifts from promoting a Malay-centric state to a multicultural state in search of foreign capital and workers -- Xiang Biao discusses opportunity options of Indian information technology workers, noting that Singapore and Malaysia serve as strategic gateways to the global market], pp 377-379.

**>Expedition**

**V.47.n.3-Wntr 2005 -- 1)** Graeme Barker, "Burial rituals of prehistoric forager-farmers in Borneo: the neolithic cemeteries of Niah Cave, Sarawak" [One of the largest and most varied prehistoric cemeteries in Southeast Asia -- Discovered in the late 1950s in the West Mouth of Niah Great Cave in Sarawak -- More than 200 'neolithic' (related to horticultural/agricultural technology) graves dating from 5,000-2,000 BP -- Barbara & Tom Harrisson 'discoverers' and archeologists -- Site map and pictures of excavations, human skeletal remains, jar burials -- Discussion of lifeways represented in the site -- Very brief bibliography], pp 14-19.

**>Far eastern economic review**

**V.169.n.1-Jan/Feb 2006 -- 1)** MAMJ (Full name withheld upon writer's request), "Letters: border trouble" [Adds points to the November 2005 issue of **FEER**, as follows: a) the Thais have for decades tried to erase Malay identity in southern Thailand by forcing Malays to take Thai names, and by allowing only Thai language to be taught in schools; whilst in Northern Malaysia, Thais are classified as *bumiputra* (natives) with the same status & privileges as Malays; b) The Thai PM's repression of Malay identity will only drive Muslims into the arms of those who choose violence], p 4; 2) Hadi Soesastro, "East Asia: many clubs, little progress" [Notes that the December 2005 East Asia Summit was a nonevent, the inaugural meeting of EAS consisting of a 3-hour dialogue

amongst heads of 16 Asia-Pacific states -- Only real agreements on avian flu prevention and meeting again in the Philippines in Dec 2006 -- Prospects for developing EAS bleak because of the tangle of APEC, Asean and ARF -- Major problem was starting up EAS in KL in the same year that Malaysia chaired Asean -- Contentions: By 2004, Malaysian attempting to assert regional leadership; Japan's not accepting China's growing influence in the region; Indonesia trying for more clout in region by opposing EAS (but later, supported Malaysia); Singapore talked about East Asia as a political rather than geographic concept; the one country ambitious to lead, China, not allowed the role by others; etc], pp 50-53; 3) Sadanand Dhume, review of Sally Neighbour, *In the shadow of swords: on the trail of terrorism from Afghanistan to Australia*, 432pp. Australia: HarperCollins [Traces the history of Jemaah Islamiyah, al Qaeda's SEA franchise and the group responsible for the Bali bombings back to the failed Darul Islam rebellion (1948-62) in which the movement wanted Indonesia declared an Islamic state -- Successors pursue essentially the same goal, with addition of southern Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and the southern Philippines; without the deep roots of the older movement, but perhaps more deadly -- Book profiles Baasyir and Sungkar's movement, noting their long exile in Malaysia, their colleagues in terror, and 'paints a vivid picture of JI's symbiotic relationship with al Qaeda' back to as early as 1987 -- The reviewer likes the way the book situates the group in a broader context, but complains that the book is less thorough in explaining how radical Islam found a toehold in Indonesia... long regarded as the least fundamentalist Muslim country -- Interesting review], pp 62-64.

**V.169.n.2-Mar 2006** -- 1) Rose Ismail, "The modern Malay woman's dilemma" [In December 2005, the Malaysian government put a bill of amendments thru parliament that potentially damages both Muslim women and the carefully nurtured image of Malaysia as a moderate enlightened Islamic state ... a late response to a 2003 cabinet directive to adopt a uniform law for all states & 3 federal territories -- A growing movement to oppose the new amendment to Islamic Family Law -- A struggle to find accommodation between tradition and human rights -- 16 women senators refused to support the bill, assenting only after a rebuke by the party whip -- The 5 amendments give a Muslim man new powers to claim a share of property belonging to his wife, enhance his rights to divorce, and allow him greater flexibility to contract polygamous marriages and manage his wife's bank account and personal property -- 'Gender equality' cited as a factor in drafting the new family law -- Parliament to reconsider the law in March 2006], pp 49-52; 2) Jeremy Hurewitz, "Interview: Dr. Mahathir on Asia, Islam and cartoons" [Interview in February 2006 ... full interview at [www.feer.com](http://www.feer.com) -- On China's rise... a waking hungry lion bound to play important role in East Asia and the whole world -- So far China a great market for Malaysia to sell its goods, now and in the future -- M's advice to China & Japan on their

relationship and Japan's apologies for WWII -- Comments on Thailand's PM and the conflict in southern Thailand, and M's attempt to find a solution -- Mahathir's disappointment that the recent East Asian Summit did not take on the international issues of the moment very strongly... too much diplomacy and not enough dealing with problems -- A bit on Russia's role in Asian integration -- His take on cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad... Muslims need to adapt to a world of in which Europeans and Americans have mostly forsaken belief in God, while Muslims are still strong believers -- On Hamas victory in Palestinian elections -- On Iran's honesty regarding its nuclear program], pp 53-55.

**V.169.n.3-Apr2006** -- 1) Ukrist Pathmanand, "Singapore's mission to befriend Thailand" [Singapore's strategic plan to turn its small island state into a major party in the establishment of the regional security and counterterrorism measures through close collaboration with Thailand, as exemplified by the 1981 Singapore-Thailand joint memorandum on joint military collaboration which allowed Singapore's army unilateral access to Thailand's air base facilities for training... but Thailand gained no similar advantage -- On Nov 22, 2004 the memorandum revisited, and Thailand asked for more for itself ... under the new treaty Singapore offered to donate seven second-hand military aircraft, F-16s in exchange for access to Udon Thani air base 3 times a year ... a political problem for PM Thaksin], pp 60-61.

#### >Focus on geography

**V.48.n.3-Fall 2005** -- 1) Josh Lepawsky, "Digital aspirations: Malaysia and the multimedia super corridor" [From the Introduction -- For more than 30 years Malaysia has been a place where the tools of the electronic age are manufactured, because of the educational system and technological skills of its citizens, and lower labor costs compared to the US... -- But now other SEA nations (the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) as well as China and India are competing directly with Malaysia because their costs are less than those of Malaysia -- Former Malaysian PM Mahathir's challenge ... 'Vision 2020' in 1991 involving a dream of one 'Bangsa Malaysia' contributing to a scientific and technological civilization of the future -- Malaysia's "Silicon Island" (MSC) & "Information Technology" (IT) ... Penang's Banyan Lapas Free Trade Zone (HP, Intel, Nokia, etc) ... Charts the relative annual growth of employment in: electrical & electronic, test & assembly, metal fabrication, plastic production, and misc. other sectors from 1990 to 2000 -- Malaysia as a 'post-colonial nation' -- MSC & IT in the *kampung* ... & more], pp 10-18.

#### >Forbes

**Mar13 - 2006** -- 1) Lee Kuan Yew, Minister Mentor of Singapore, "Oil and Islamism: top world agenda" [Notes that Islam has not been a problem, but that contemporary radical Islam or 'Islamism' is a problem; Oil without Islamism can be a problem, but Islamism plus oil becomes a volatile mix; And, Islamism plus oil plus weapons of mass destruction equals a threat -- Iran as example -- A terse history lesson about how more than 40 Arab and Muslim countries

became independent after World II, followed by a 'high point' when Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal, Eisenhower's opposition to the French, British and Israeli invasion and occupation of Suez, followed by the construction of the United Arab Republic, etc. -- Iranian Islamic missionary ventures and the attempt to 'Arabize' moderate Malay and Indonesian Muslims -- Islamic solidarity is at a high point -- Danish cartoons, Muslim rage and freedom of the press -- Circumspection and caution needed concerning elections in the Middle East and Egypt -- But there is hope: e.g., Pakistan, Jordan, Egypt... and, by the way, Malaysia's PM, Abdullah Badawi is doing the right things, and so is Indonesia's President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono... Islam needs more leaders of this caliber -- Vintage Lee Kuan Yew, a tight knowledgeable summary of the history of a complex situation and how he thinks it should be managed], p 29.

**>Global change: peace & security**

**V.18,n.1-Feb 2006** -- 1) Sara E. Davies, "Saving refugees or saving borders? Southeast Asian states and the Indochinese refugee crisis" [Charts the responses of Southeast Asian states to the Indochinese refugee crisis between 1975 & the 1979 Geneva conference -- Of all the Southeast Asian states only the Philippines became signatory to international refugee law during that period -- As late as 1969, Malaysia & Singapore claimed to know nothing of international refugee law, and after being informed, they expressed concern that signing such conventions would impede their ability to address specific national problems such as racial balance and unemployment; and the US did not pressure them to sign -- In 1977-78, a deepening crisis: at the end of 1977, the number of Indochinese boat people in Malaysia had increased from 1,157 at the beginning of the year to 6,974 at year's end; and by October 1978 had added 20,000 more -- The 1979 conference on this problem and the Western response to the crisis only served to further entrench SEA states' resistance to international refugee law instruments], pp 3-24

**>Harvard Asia quarterly**

**V.ix,n.4-Fall 2005** -- 1) Clive Schofield & Ian Storey, "Energy security and Southeast Asia: the impact on maritime boundary and territorial disputes" [More on the multi-national dispute over ownership of petroleum in Southeast Asian seas -- Discusses two cases: Ambalat, off the east coast of Borneo, disputed between Malaysia & Indonesia; and the Spratley Islands in the South China Sea, on which there has been a recent agreement among China, the Philippines and Vietnam -- See related article by Kathryn Khamsi, "A settlement to the Timor Sea Dispute?", pp 6-23, in the same issue], pp 36-46; 2) Catherine Zara Raymond, "Piracy in Southeast Asia: new trends, issues, and responses" [Examines the problem of piracy in Southeast Asia, with attention to emerging trends, focusing in particular on the world's most piracy-prone areas around the seas of Indonesia and the Straits of Malacca, examining some of the anti-piracy measures that have been implemented, their effectiveness analyzed and the shortcomings explained --

Proposes recommendations on the direction that future counter-measures should take], pp 62-71.

**>Harvard international review**

**V.xxvii,n.4-Wintr 2006** -- 1) Marco Verweij & Dipak Gyawali, "Against more aid: why development assistance should not be tripled" [Uses Singapore and Malaysia as well as China and India as examples of countries that have achieved modern productive economies while receiving little or no assistance from the West or the World Bank...], pp 26-30.

**>Indonesia and the Malay world**

**V.33,n.97 - Nov 2005** -- 1) Mulaika Hijjas, "The nursemaid's tale: representations of the *inang* in *Syair Sultan Mahmud* and *Syair Siti Zuhrah*" [From the Conclusion -- The history of the *inang* has to be pieced together from fragments gleaned for colonial era reports without concern of the experiences of slaves themselves -- Perhaps a better history from the traditional literary texts than from the colonial era reports... more numerous examples set in holistic contexts -- Riau romantic adventure *syair* significantly differ from *kidung* because their plots imply a predominantly female audience... etc], pp 265-279; 2) Russell Jones, "On the use of the Arabic *tashdid* to represent the *pepet* in Malay script" [From the Concluding remarks -- The *tashdid* is found in some Malay manuscripts from earliest times, but is confusing: a) that in Arabic it is marked a doubled consonant, and can still do that in Malay; b) that while a diacritic over a consonant in Arabic script indicates what the following vowel should be, but in Malay a *tashdid* indicates that the preceding vowel is a *pepet*], pp 281-292; 3) Md. Salleh Yaapar, "A post-colonial poet with a quest for identity: self and other in the works of Muhammad Haji Salleh" [From the Introduction -- Muhammad Haji Salleh one of Malaysia's national laureates; distinguished poet and respected literary scholar -- Known for his passionate quest for identity and roots as well as his critical view of colonial masters -- This article delineates his quest for identity, his notion of the self and of other, as reflected in example verses from his outstanding collections of poems], pp 293-306.

**>International journal of sociology of the family**

**V.31,n.2-Atmn 2005** -- 1) Xiaowei Zang, "Gender and ethnic variation in love marriage in urban Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- Using a data set collected in Kuala Lumpur in 2002, examines ethnic differences in love marriages -- Shows that the majority of urban marriages of Malays and of Chinese are based on free choice, and that Chinese are more likely than Malays to report love marriages, but differences between Malay and Chinese men fade when background characteristics are controlled, while no similar pattern is found among women -- Indicates that Malay women have a lower degree of autonomy in the marriage market than their brothers -- Suggests a new interpretation of the effect of Malay culture and status attainment on inter-group differences in marriage in Malaysia], pp 91-107.

**>Journal of economic development**

**V.30,n.2 - Dec 2005** -- 1) Hung-Ju Chen & Hsiao-Tang Hsu, "The role of firm size in controlling output decline during the Asian financial crisis" [Develops a simplified risk premium model to explain output decline within the economies of Asia

in the immediate aftermath of the Asian financial crisis -- Their model predicts that small firm size will accelerate unanticipated shocks; therefore, output decline will be greater in countries with small firms than in those with large firms -- Malaysia and Singapore among the cases], pp 103-129.

**>Malaysian business**

**Aug1st-15th - 2005 -- 1)** A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: NEP benefited all Malaysians" [While proponents of the NEP say a revival is necessary, detractors are quick to point out that any attempt to resurrect the Malay agenda would be futile; but remember that it had benefited every layer of society regardless of ethnicity], pp 8-10; **2)** Charles Raj, "Commentary: stopping the rot" [The 'approved permits' fiasco is a rude awakening of sorts -- How much deeper does the scourge of lacking accountability run in this country? -- It is indeed time to act"], pp 12; **3)** Datuk Mohd Salleh Majid, "Salleh's say: towards a more meaningful NEP" [In the face of a more challenging economic environment, there is a need to restore the NEP to ensure continued survival of the Malays -- But with a new approach that won't repeat past excesses], pp 14-15; **4)** Habhajan Singh, "Breaking new grounds: Umno's 56th assembly a rejuvenated affair with some hot topics being debated" [Witnessed debates with intensity not seen in many years... an appetite for critical introspection and tough messages -- Party president, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's "coming out party"... but with some bad news... that the latest statistics indicated that the NEP's targets have been only partially achieved -- Party members were equally blunt regarding: re-engineering the NEP spirit; the approved permits issue (for foreign cars); balancing UMNO and Parliament issues; contractors & projects; the size of the Malay piece of the national economic pie; and 'cleaner' political campaigns], 16-17; **5)** Clarence Y K Ngui, "Hope floats with ringgit de-peg" [After almost 7 years of being pegged to the US\$, Bank Negara's decision to remove the peg, soon after China ended the yuan peg, seen as start of an upward trend... What is in store for the ringgit and the Malaysian economy?], pp 35-37; **6)** James S, "Ringgit de-peg: the implications and the impact" [Impact on the economy; How the market reacts; Implications on various sectors -- Gainers-Winners: building materials sector, motors, electric power, transportation, media -- Losers: plantations, semiconductors, mixed & neutral banking -- Conclusion], pp 38-40.

**Aug16th-31st - 2005 -- 1)** A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: of GLCs, Vision 2020 vs Siti Nurhaliza" [The PM is urging government-linked companies not to compete with Bumiputeras -- Fact is that GLCs are more likely to compete with Bumiputra businesses than complement them], pp 6-8; **2)** Charles Raj, "A banker's woes" [Bank Negara Malaysia's rejection of the re-appointment of Datuk Seri Sulaiman Abdul Rahman Taib as executive chairman of RHB Capital Bhd raises questions], p 10; **3)** Gurmeet Kaur & Norasyida Abdul Rahim, "Working harder for the money" [Fewer directors

earned more than RM300,000 in 2004 compared with 2003 -- Are companies starting to base executive payouts on performance?], pp 18-40 & tables.

**Sep1st-15th - 2005 -- 1)** A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: a lucky lot we are, but..." [Just into its 48th year of independence, Malaysia has shown that it is a blessed country to live in -- Now, if only we could change the irksome way we do things: a) hazy days and hazy actions; b) what happened to our planning capacity; c) when monopolies take precedence; d) why focus on cabinet reshuffles or vilifying the cell phone (debate on registering cell phone prepaid subscribers)], pp 8-10; **2)** Datuk Mohd Salleh Majid, "What's with the Stock Exchange?" [The Malaysian stock exchange does not seem to have fully recovered from the 1997 beating -- Lately, it has been recording lower trading values compared with stock exchanges in the region], pp14-15; **3)** Habhajan Singh, "PAS: changing tack" [The new crop of leaders promise meaningful changes in the party -- Deputy president Nasharuddin Mat Isa (who envisions a political party with a Malaysian face) explains in an interview], 16-17.

**Sep16th-30th - 2005 -- 1)** A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: solutions to ease the people's burden" [The government's relief package will help to defray some of the problems faced by the people, but much more has to be done in the long term -- The gradual withdrawal of the petroleum subsidy suffered more by the poor -- Looking for alternatives as the government has an opportunity for pushing greater use of public transport -- Who would build an 8-story 'bungalow' unless it was a very large family... the rich showing off?... no, the KL City Hall -- Then, there is President Bush's performance regarding hurricane Katrina, etc. (which makes KL City Hall almost reasonable (not my comment, ed.)), pp 8-10; **2)** Charles Raj, "Commentary: under the limelight yet again" [The question of government-linked companies (funded by taxpayers), their role and financial performance have been thrust into the limelight -- It's time they are held more accountable for their actions, including the biggest of them all... Khazanah Nasional Bhd], p 11; **3)** S Jai Shankar, "Foundations of charity" [While charitable foundations have been around for a few decades, many could do with more openness in their activities], pp 20-22.

**Oct1st-15th - 2005 -- 1)** A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: when developed status does not mean efficiency" [With Selangor proudly declaring itself a developed state; one would expect greater things for it; more efficiency, better service and a healthier environment for one -- But, alas, this doesn't seem to be the case for now -- So, what is being 'developed' all about?], pp 8-10; **2)** Charles Raj, "Commentary: planning to fail" [From water and electricity shortages to graft to taking the easy way out, it would seem that the nation's planners are habitually on course to fail time and time again -- Haven't they learned anything?] p 12; **3)** Habhajan Singh, "Politics: on the campaign trail ... already" [A good 9 months away, the MIC's general election is already starting to heat up... with past president Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu firing the first salvo by accusing his deputy of waging a proxy war against him --

How things shape up from here would be worth noting], pp 16-18.

**Oct16th-31st-2005** -- 1) Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: AP (approved permits for the importation of automobiles) Issue led astray, once again" [After what seemed a tension-filled build-up, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz's appearance in Parliament to clear the air on the AP issue was a tame affair, with attention being diverted to a different angle -- Rafidah Aziz has worked hard and successfully to bring foreign direct investment (FDI) into Malaysia, and FDI inflows, while steady, are no longer going into labor-intensive sectors, but she has distractors in Parliament -- Can she sue Kit Siang, the opposition chief, for alleging that she gave APs to her son-in-law and 'friends?'], pp 6-8; 2) Charles Raj, "Do Local Authorities (local councils) serve the People" [If local councils are failing to carry out their duties efficiently, then why should they exist in the first place, especially since their rudimentary roles can be played by others?], p 10; 3) Datuk Dr Sulaiman Mahbob, "Bridging the gap" [While certain quarters are uneasy with the call to reintroduce the New Economic Policy, implemented in the proper context, such a growth-with-distribution policy will prove to be beneficial to all and sundry], pp 12-13; 4) Datuk Mohd Salleh Majid, "Salleh's say: finding an equilibrium" [Budget 2006 offers a balance between promoting growth and containing inflation], pp 14-15; 5a) Gurmeet Kaur (author) & Norasyida Abdul Rahim (research), "Reaching for the sky" [Malaysian listed companies have come of age -- For the first time since *Malaysian business* began the MB 100 survey five years ago, all 100 companies on the list have crossed the RM one billion turnover threshold -- Sections on methodology of the survey, ranked list of largest companies by turnover (tables 2003-4 & 2004-5), pp 20-27; 5b) Gurmeet Kaur, "Highest increase in turnover", p 28; 5c) Norsian Nurani, "Highest net profit", p29; 5d) Clarence Y K Ngui, "Biggest change in profit", p30; 5e) Clarence Y K Ngui, "Highest return on turnover" p31; 5f) Bhupinder Singh, "Highest return on assets", p32; 5g) Joanna Sze, "Highest return on equity", p33; 6) P Ishun Ahmad, "Economy: budget talk" [Amid rising concerns about increasing fuel prices and inflation, what does Budget 2006 have in store for Malaysians], pp 40-41.

**Nov1st-15th-2005** -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Bad implementation undermines good policies" [While recently unveiled 'National automotive policy' looks good on paper, it stands to lose its luster in the implementation stage, like so many other worthwhile national policies -- This is where the government machinery has to be improved], pp 8-10; 2) Charles Raj, "Sticky solution" [The MIC has proposed a RM500-million trust fund to start the ball rolling in its quest to raise the community's equity stake to 3% -- If the Maiki fiasco is any indication, then what are its chances?], p12; 3) Rizal Ishak, "Prosperity for all" [For a more holistic public-private sector partnership, perhaps non-Bumiputra beneficiaries of the NEP should channel their resources to local concerns rather than

taking their money out], pp 16&20; 4) Habhajan Singh, "Delayed gratification" [Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad's money politics sage came to its end on Oct 16, with him tendering his resignation as Federal Territories Minister some 3 months after he was found guilty by the Umno Disciplinary Board -- The question on everyone's mind is: why did it take so long?], pp17&23; 5) Clarence Y K Ngui, "Continuing the biotek challenge" [After the doubtful status of the much touted BioValley project, Malaysia is giving it another shot at creating a biotechnology industry with BioNexus -- Will it fare better this time?], pp 24-30.

**Nov16th-30th-2005** -- Issue devoted to "Women Power".

**Dec1st-15th-2005** -- Issue theme = "Whither Accountability"; 1) Datul Mohd Salleh Majid, "Salleh's say: harnessing talent" [After much brouhaha, the government has finally confirmed the actual number of unemployed graduates in the country and their profile -- Rather than pointing fingers as to where we have gone wrong, it is time we take stock and see how the potential of these young men and women can be maximized], p 12-13.

**>Media Asia: an Asian communication quarterly**

**V.32.n.1 - 2005** -- 1) Sameera Tilakawardana, "To be the cine-hub of Asia: exploring the probability of developing Singapore as an Asian film hub through international co-productions" [From the Abstract -- Looks at the varied Asian film industries, pondering chances for Singapore to develop as a center for Asian cinema -- Addresses some recent developments in the industry... experiments in co-productions between nations and announcement that Lucasfilm plans development of a studio in Singapore -- Explores implications of these developments, offering suggestions of how the country's film sector might best be developed], pp 39-46.

**>Peninsule: etudes interdisciplinaires sur l'Asie du Sud-Est Peninsulaire**

**V.xxxvi annee. Nouvelle serie 50-2005(1)** -- 1) Maia Levasseur, "*Les migrations entre l'Indonesie et la Malaysia, Une tradition a l'epreuve de la modernite*" [Sections on: a) traditional movement of people between Malaysia and Indonesia in the colonial period; b) modern migration considered in terms of economic needs, employment and politics; c) illegal immigration-flow, routes and strategies; d) the reactions of Malaysian society; e) repression and Malaysian need for foreigner travelers; f) the Malaysian announcement of a final amnesty for illegal immigrants in October, 2004; g) conclusion... still no real resolution to the problems], pp 59-72.

**>Singapore journal of tropical geography**

**V.27.n.1 - Mar 2006** -- 1) Robyn Iredale, review of **Aris Ananta & Evi Nurvidya Arifin (eds), 2004, *International migration in Southeast Asia*. 373 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Pb ISBN 981-230-279-4.** [Book helps expand literature about the very significant topic of international migration in the Southeast Asian region -- Takes a holistic view thru a wide range of disciplinary perspectives: history, economics, social and political factors, paying some attention to gender issues

-- Pays attention to the issue of irregular migrations, which is an important phenomenon in the region -- Collectively, the chapters show that there are many people in the region who cannot find appropriate employment in their home countries; And employers in the more developed countries have unmet demand for labor because of governments that will not admit the numbers of labor migrants they require -- The reviewer notes that there are 'two papers on Malaysia', which deal with the theme of mismatch between the demand for low skilled workers and the entry levels permitted under government policy and bilateral agreements], pp 102-104.

**>The economist**

**Feb18th-24th - 2005** -- 1) "Business: what not to expect" [P&O's shareholders accepted a \$6.8 billion offer from DP World, ending a bidding war in which the Dubai-based company's effort to buy the British ports operator was almost thwarted by Singapore's PSA], p 7 (See [www.economist.com/cities](http://www.economist.com/cities).)

**Feb25th-Mar3rd 2006** -- 1) "The world this week: business" [After a decade of lobbying, Australia turned down the Singapore Airlines' bid for access to the Sydney-Los Angeles route -- Turned down in spite of government qualms concerning high fares of Qantas], p 7; 2) "South-east Asia: all serene" [Report of a *The economist* correspondent, who is leaving SEA after 4 years, noting that politics and economics there have never seemed so smooth as now -- The 3rd straight year of economic expansion (only Thailand lagging) -- The (1997) economic crisis had shook Malaysia to the core and Singaporeans grumbled about the recession in 2001 -- Malaysia defied the received financial wisdom and imposed currency controls, while fixing the exchange rate... A popular new PM in Malaysia ... and last year Malaysia dismantled the last of the contentious measures -- Now debates on the fine points of economic management... but grumbling about the allocation of permits to import automobiles -- Even the release of Anwar Ibrahim from detention in 2004, without political turmoil because the PM elected in 2003, Abdullah Badawi, had already installed many Anwar-suggested reforms -- And more concerning Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines], pp 47-48; 3) "Emerging-market indicators: overview" [Malaysia's GDP grew by 5.2% in the year to the 4th quarter, and its central bank raised its over-night policy rate to 3.25%, leaving rates near zero in real terms], p 106.

**Mar18th-24th - 2006** -- 1) "South-East Asia: well overdue, more drilling, less subsidizing" [While Indonesia is the only member of OPEC that is an overall importer of oil (gas production ensures that it remains a net energy exporter), Malaysia is a net exporter of oil and has raised output of oil in recent years leading to reduction of industry subsidies and a rise in fuel prices (Indonesia 127% and Malaysia 40%), but rising fuel costs have not plunged the countries into economic recession], pp 43-46

**Apr1st-7th-2006** -- 1) "South-East Asia's exchange rates: perky pesos, rallying rupiah" [Region's currencies stay strong amid the squalls -- With political unrest dominating the

headlines in Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and, unusually, in Malaysia, which has had street protests against fuel prices, you might expect currencies to be dropping; but, in fact, they have been rather strong... Malaysia's central bank has been buying dollars to slow the rise in *ringgit*], p 60.

**Apr8th-14th-2006** -- 1) "Malaysia: Badawi's grand plan" [Far-sighted, but still with blind spots -- Malaysia's elaborate plans to join the rich world in a new 5-year plan introduced by PM Abdullah Badawi on March 31st -- Plan puts less emphasis on grand infrastructure projects and more on the human side of development than before: 20% of the 200 billion ringgit (USD 54 billion) budget goes to education, the largest share of the total, in an attempt keep up with China's and India's 'armies of technical wizards' -- Also, a shift towards relieving poverty in the rural states of eastern peninsular Malaysia and Borneo... actually redirecting government help towards states that do not vote for UMNO... and raising the legal standard of monthly poverty income from 588 to 691 ringgit ... and more], p 42.

**Apr15th-21st-2006** -- 1) "The quality of living" (A chart for 32 major cities including Singapore and Kuala Lumpur based on a survey of 350 cities) ["In the parts of the world covered on this page of *The Economist*, Singapore is the best city in which to live"], p 98.

**>The journal of Asian studies**

**V.64,n.4-Nov 2005** -- 1) Fahimul Quadir, review of Muthiah Alagappa (ed), 2004. *Civil society and political change in Asia: expanding and contracting democratic space*. xxii, 528 pp. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press. [12 country studies: Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, China, Taiwan, Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Langka, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, India, and Burma, in which authors explore contributions to democracy made by civil society in each country... the editor contributed a conceptual chapter and two concluding chapters -- Reviewer notes that Meridith Weiss's "...truly insightful chapter on Malaysia..."; which suggests that excessive focus on religion can be dysfunctional in that popular interests are under-represented in favor of the narratives of ultra-nationalism that undercut civility, posing a threat to human rights and democracy], pp 975-976.

**>The journal of comparative Asian development**

**V.4.n.1-Sprng 2005** -- 1) Rosalind Chew & Soon Beng Chew, "Wage issues and human resources in Singapore" [From the Abstract -- One of the most important human relations (HR) today concerns the transformation of the wage system in Singapore from the seniority-based wage system to the flexible wage system (FWS) based on annual bonuses in the first instance and then on the monthly variable component (MVC), which is a special case of the FWS -- This paper examines the complexities involved in the transformation of the wage system which is intertwined with Singapore's social security scheme, namely the Central Provident Fund (CPF) and the tripartite National Wages Council (NWC) -- Both macro data and the views of employers and employees at the plant level have been

included to examine the success and difficulties in changing the wage system -- The findings are encouraging -- And much more], pp 77-103.

***The journal of imperial and commonwealth history***

**V.34.n.1-Mar 2006** -- 1) Simon C. Smith, "Moving a little with the tide': Malay monarchy and the development of modern Malay nationalism" [From the Abstract -- From the early 20th C., the ideological hegemony of Malay monarchy has been challenged by emerging Malay nationalism -- Nationalism, however, has rarely sought to overturn monarchy -- But sometimes uneasy co-existence facilitated by linkages and common interests between aristocratic nationalists and Malay Rulers -- But mutual interests have not prevented disputes between princes and politicians -- But the continuing hold exercised by monarchy over Malays has placed a limit on the extent to which Rulers have been supplanted by alternative representations of loyalty and identity -- Ability of Malay monarchy to 'move a little with the tide' has assisted royalty's weathering the nationalist challenge during Malaya's transition from colonialism to independence], pp 123-138.

**>The Pacific review**

**V.19.n.2 Jun-2006** -- [Special Issue - "Theorizing Southeast Asian relations: emerging debates" -- Guest editors: Amitav Acharya & Richard Stubbs -- All 7 articles basically about ASEAN: a) Amitav Acharya & Richard Stubbs, "Theorizing Southeast Asian relations: an introduction"; b) Sarah Eaton & Richard Stubbs, "Is ASEAN powerful? Neo-realist vs constructivist approaches to power in SEA"; c) Alice D. Ba, "Who's socializing whom? Complex engagement in Sino-ASEAN relations"; d) Hiro Katsumata, "Establishment of the ASEAN regional forum: constructing a 'talking shop' or a 'norm brewery'?"; e) Shaun Narine "The English School and ASEAN"; f) Tsuyoshi Kawasaki, "Neither skepticism nor romanticism: the ASEAN Regional Forum as a solution for the Asia-Pacific Assurance Game"; and g) See Seng Tan, "Rescuing constructivism from the constructivists: a critical reading of constructivist interventions in Southeast Asian security"].

**>Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie:**

***Journal of economic and social geography***

**V.97.n.1 - 2006** -- 1) Guest editor: David Ley, whole volume on "The political economy of immigration"; Introduction by Daniel Hiebert & David Ley, pp 3-6; 2) Brenda S.A. Yeoh, "Bifurcated labour: the unequal incorporation of transmigrants in Singapore" [From the Abstract -- Begins with brief background on Singapore's development from product of overlapping diasporas to a multiracial nation -- Attention to the dynamics of renewed streams of transnational labor flows in current decade in shaping the global city -- Examines bifurcated nature of city state's foreign labor policies & how the transience/permanent divide is predicated on skill -- Differential politics of inclusion and exclusion lock transmigrants into 2 structural sectors of society & economy with currently no possibility of interpenetration], pp 26-37.

**>World archaeology**

**V.37,n.4-Dec 2005** -- 1) Peter Bellwood & Jared Diamond, "On explicit 'replacement' models in Island Southeast Asia: a reply to Stephen Oppenheimer" [Keywords: Austronesians, Taiwan, Island Southeast Asia, migration -- Stephen Oppenheimer (2004) criticizes Diamond and Bellwood (2003), stating that they favor a 'replacement' model of indigenous hunter-gatherers in Island Southeast Asia by incoming Austronesian-speaking Neolithic agriculturalists -- The invalidity of Oppenheimer's interpretation is evident in the present biological diversity of the people of Island Southeast Asia; They are not unmixed Austronesian immigrants, but are varying mixtures of immigrants with the previous local peoples. And, Bellwood & Diamond did not claim replacement, but merely mixture], pp 503-506.

**>World Englishes**

**V.25.n.1 - Feb 2006** -- 1) Boa Zhiming & Hong Huaqing, "Diglossia and register variations in Singapore English" [From the Abstract -- Colloquial Singapore English is an outer-circle variety that exhibits contact-induced linguistic change -- 2 issues addressed: a) extent to which it is supported by corpus data, and b) extent to which the diglossia is reducible to register variation -- data support Singapore English diglossia, but variation is greater than what is normal to register variation...], pp 105-114.

**Books Books books books (Relevant to M/S/B)**

**Andaya, Barbara Watson**

2006 ***The flaming womb: repositioning women in early modern Southeast Asia***. 368 pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. Hb ISBN 0-8248-7 / 978-0-8248-2955-1. [Title from the Javanese legend that symbolizes the ambiguities attached to femaleness in many Southeast Asian societies despite the relatively egalitarian nature of female-male relations which is central to arguments claiming coherent identity to the region -- Consideration of this and other seeming contradictions offer a thought provoking view of Southeast Asian history, focusing on women's roles and perceptions, exploring the broad themes of the early modern era (1500-1800): introduction of new religions, major economic shifts, changing patterns of state control, impacts of elite lifestyles and behaviors, citing many examples... Malay, Thai, Vietnamese, Burmese and Philippine examples... putting women back into world history.]

**Bhattacharyya, Harihar**

2006 ***Federalism in Asia: India, Pakistan and Malaysia***. 224 pp. NY: Routledge. Hb 0-415-31540-9. [Analyzes successes and failures of various federal measures adopted in Malaysia, Pakistan and India for the political accommodation of diversity, assessing their comparative significance for other ethnically diverse countries in Asia.]

**Beeson, Mark (ed)**

2006 ***Bush and Asia: America's evolving relations with East Asia***. 288 pp. NY: Routledge. Hb ISBN 0-415-38333-1. [See especially, Ch11, Helen Nesadurai, "Malaysia and the United States:rejecting dominance, embracing engagement".]

Bending, Tim

2006 *Penan histories: contentious narratives in Upper Serawal*. 198 pp. (KITLV Books, Netherlands) Distributed exclusively in SEA, except Indonesia, by Singapore ISEAS. Pb ISBN 90-6718-262-1. [From the publisher's description -- An ethnographic examination of the Penan transition from nomadism to agriculture and employment in the timber industry, protest against that industry, and back once more to working as loggers; a story of culture change, collective action and individual corruption.]

Conboy, Ken

2005 *The second front: inside Asia's most dangerous terrorist network*. 256 pp. Jakarta: Equinox Publishing. ISBN 979-3780-08-8. [The story of Jemaah Islamiyah -- Peels back the veil of secrecy and chronicles some of the successes in bringing down the network, and also exposes missed opportunities by regional governments to prevent terrorist acts and sectarian violence.]

Corfield, Justin

2006 *Encyclopedia of Singapore*. 304 pp. Singapore: Scarecrow Press. Hb ISBN 0-8108-5347-7 [Focuses on the period since independence -- Provides essential historical background, including brief entries on leaders of independence, economic progress and culture, etc -- Bibliography.]

Dhoraisingam, Samuel S.

2006 *Peranakan Indians of Singapore and Melaka: Indian Babas and Nonyas - Chitty Melaka*. 118 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Hb 981-230-346-4. [Bringing together original interviews and archival material, this accessible book documents the all-but-forgotten history, customs, religion and culture of the Peranakan Indians of Singapore and Malacca.]

George, Cherian

2006 *Contentious journalism and the internet: towards democratic discourse in Malaysia and Singapore*. 240 pp. Seattle: University of Washington Press. Pb ISBN 0-295-98578-X. [The internet has democratized public discourse in Malaysia & Singapore -- Websites on the margins of the political systems engage in a contentious style of journalism challenging the consensus in mainstream media.]

Gillis, E. Kay

2005 *Singapore civil society and British power*. ix, 259 pp. Pb ISBN 981-05-2694-6. Singapore: Talisman Publishing Ltd. [From the backcover -- The first broad look at the associational activity that took place from 1819 to 1963 and how it influenced British public policy in Singapore from the days of the East India Company to independence, when residents were prepared to form associations to further their causes using political means -- A chronological study covering six periods in Singapore's history from Raffles to the end of the British era.]

>Kuchiki, Akifumi & Masatsugu Tsuji (eds)

2005 *Industrial clusters in Asia: analyses of their competition and cooperation*. xii, 330 pp. Houndmills,

Basingstoke, Hampshire & NY: Palgrave Macmillan. [See especially, Yumiko Okamoto, Ch 6, pp 225-243, "Can Malaysia's growth be sustainable" -- [From the Conclusion -- The uniqueness of Malaysia's electronics industry is that although

Malaysia has been attracting a larger number of foreign firms, especially in the parts & component industries, than other ASEAN countries, those firms tend to be dispersed geographically within Malaysia in comparison to Thailand and China, which may generate a favorable effect on the pattern of regional development -- Although some production sites have relocated outside Malaysia, the majority of foreign firms remain to reinvest in Malaysia... so that Malaysia is climbing up the quality ladder, step by step, as seen in changing trade and investment structures -- The threat of China's emerging industrial power and entry into WTO seems not to affect Malaysia's electronic industry -- Malaysia has begun to find a new model of growth by combining both hardware & software in the electronics industry.]

Marsh, Ian (ed)

2006 *Democratisation, governance and regionalism in East and Southeast Asia*. 272 pp. NY: Routledge. Hb ISBN 0-415-37623-8. [New gap-filling collection of essays comparing development of central institutions of governance in emerging democracies in East & SE Asia -- Seven key countries covered include Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.]

McCarthy, Stephen

2006 *The political theory of tyranny in Singapore and Burma*. 288 pp. NY: Routledge. Hb ISBN 0-415-70186-4. [Historical and political-cultural analyses of Buddhism and Confucianism, with Burma and Singapore as case studies using basic assumptions of democratization theory, the political science of tyranny, exploring the rhetorical manipulation of religion for purposes of political legitimacy.]

Moaddel, Mansoor

2005 *Islamic modernism, nationalism, and fundamentalism: episode and discourse*. 194 pp. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pb ISBN 0-226-53333-6. [From [www.press.uchicago.edu](http://www.press.uchicago.edu) -- ... An ambitious comparative historical analysis of ideological production in the Islamic world from mid-1800s to the present -- A unique perspective for understanding social conditions of these discourses -- Movements in terms of a sequence of cultural episodes characterized by ideological debates and religious disputations, each ending with a revolution or military coup -- A firm basis of comparison with Islam in the Malay world.]

>Ng, Tisa & Lily Tan

2005 *Ong Teng Cheong: planner, politician, president*. 151 pp. Singapore: Editions Didier Millet & Singapore Heritage Society. [A coffee table book about the deceased (1936-2002) former President of Singapore -- Lots of pictures, and an orderly traditional presentation of his life: formative years, national projects, the NTUC, patron of the arts, the presidency, and epilogue ... back pages provide chronology, sources, index and picture credits.]

**Nordin Hussin**

2006 *Trade and society in the Straits of Melaka: Dutch Melaka and English Penang, 1780-1830*. 368 pp. Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies. Pb ISBN 87-91114-98-5. [Traces the British-Dutch struggle for dominance in insular Southeast Asia in the lead-up to the founding of Singapore – A mass of new archival material on the transition from the ‘Age of Commerce’ to the age of empire in Southeast Asia.]

**Ooi Kee Beng**

2006 *Era of transition: Malaysia after Mahathir*. 190 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Hb ISBN 981-230-379-0. [A collection of opinion pieces written by Ooi Kee Beng and published in the mass media after Abdullah Badawi became PM in Oct 2004 – Discusses the country’s underlying problems, nation building, the leading party and its weaknesses and strengths, role of Malaysian Islam, and growing role of regionalism and globalization.]

**Ping, Jonathan H.**

2005 *Middle power statecraft: Indonesia, Malaysia and the Asia-Pacific*. 282 pp. Williston VT: Ashgate. Hb ISBN 0-7546-4467-7. [Takes a comparative focus on Malaysia & Indonesia to inform and test a unifying theory for the concept of ‘middle power’ (MP) and presents a hybridization theory as a basis for analysis, policy development and prediction of MP statecraft and perceived power – A fresh look at the concept of middle power in international relations.]

**Rettig, Tobias & Karl Hack (eds)**

2006 *Colonial armies in Southeast Asia*. 352 pp. NY: Routledge. Hb ISBN 0-41533413-6. [A compelling exploration of Chinese, Japanese and Western clashes from Ming China to present day, examining conquests, management and decolonization – Themes: recruitment, loyalty, impact of foreign-dominated forces, Asian use of “colonial” forces to dominate other Asians – Chinese expansion into Yunnan and Vietnam, present-day Indonesia, post-colonial Malaysia & Singapore.]

**Saw Swee-Hock,**

2005 *Bibliography of Malaysian demography*. 218 pp. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. Hb ISBN 981-230-354-5. [Contains most comprehensive/up-to-date list of 1,379 titles covering aspects of the demography of Malaysia – Topics include: census reports, population law, internal migration, urbanization, ethnic composition, marriage, fertility, labor force, family planning, population aging and future population trends, etc.]

**Saw Swee-Hock,**

2005 *Bibliography of Singapore demography*. 174 pp. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. Hb ISBN 981-230-353-7. [Contains most comprehensive/up-to-date list of 1,165 titles covering aspects of the demography of Singapore -- – Topics include: census reports, population law, population distribution, ethnic composition, marriage, fertility, labor force, family planning, population aging and future population trends, etc.]

**Saw Swee-Hock & K. Kesavapany (eds)**

2006 *Singapore-Malaysia relations under Abdullah Badawi*. 100 pp. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. Hb ISBN 981-230-378-2. [Documents series of events contributing to better relations between the two countries since Abdullah Badawi became Malaysia’s PM – 8 chapters cover background, bilateral ties, intensified official visits, people-to-people contacts, deepening public sector economic ties, expanding private sector economic ties, renewing educational and sporting events, and uplifting future relations – Useful appendices providing opinions of eminent persons on bilateral relations.]

**Sercombe, Peter & Bernard Sellato (eds)**

2006 *Beyond the green myth: Borneo’s hunter-gatherers in the twenty-first century*. 368 pp. Copenhagen: NIAS Press. Pb ISBN 87-91114-93-4. [A comprehensive picture of the nomadic and formerly nomadic hunting-gathering groups of the Borneo tropical rain forest – Covers all areas of the Borneo tropical rain forest – New research contributed by an international team of scholars.]

**Snitwongse, Kusuma & W. Scott Thompson (eds)**

2005 *Ethnic conflicts in Southeast Asia*. 170 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Pb ISBN 981-230d-340-5. [Written by country experts, examines ethnic configurations as well as conflict avoidance & resolution in 5 SEA countries: Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Myanmar.]

**Teeuw, A., R. Dumas, Muhammad Haji Salleh, R. Tol, & M.J. Van Yperen (eds)**

2005 *Four texts of the Syair Sinyor Kosta*. 2 vols, 480 pp. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN 90-6718-216-8.

**Tomasic, Roman (ed)**

2006 *Insolvency law in East Asia*. 700 pp. Williston VT: Ashgate. Hb ISBN 0-7546-2125-1. [See especially : a) Bahrin (kam) Kamarul, “Insolvency law in Malaysia”; and b), Victor Yeo & Pauline Gan, “Insolvency Law in Singapore”.]

**Vincent, Jeffrey R. & Rozali Mohamad Ali**

2005 *Managing natural wealth: environment and development in Malaysia*. 468 pp. Singapore: ISEAS/Resources for the Future Press. Pb ISBN 981-230-237-9. [Includes a review of key developments since the 1990s by S. Robert Aiken and Colin H. Leigh, 2 geographers with a long-standing interest in environmental change in Malaysia with an understanding of the institutional context of its environmental policy.]

**Weiss, Meredith L.**

2005 *Protests and possibilities: civil society and coalitions for political change in Malaysia*. 344 pp. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press. Pb ISBN 0-8047-5295-8, Hb ISBN 0-8047-5294-X. [Comparing ‘illiberal’ democracies of Malaysia and Indonesia, author sheds light on the significant relationships of specific state structures to the types of coalitions, agendas, and institutional and normative reforms that emerge – Examines a recent movement for political reform in Malaysia, contrasting the experience both with past initiatives in Malaysia and with a contemporaneous reform movement in Indonesia, gaining understanding of

## **BERITA - V.30,n.2 – 2nd Qtr - 2006 - PAGE 12**

how and when coalitions unite reformers from civil and political societies, and how these coalitions engage with the state and society.]

### **Conferences & Calls for Papers**

**Borneo Research Council Conference:** The theme is "Borneo in the new century" -- 31 Jul – 1 Aug 2006, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia (co-organizer: Institute of East Asian Studies, University Malaysia Sarawak) – Papers presenting original research in all fields relating to Borneo (Sabah, Brunei, Sarawak or Kalimantan and their surrounding region)... Individual presenter papers... each panel a maximum of 4 papers -- Abstract submission deadline passed (1May2006) but some panels may not yet be filled ... contact panel convener w/full contact details; paper titles and their presenters w/full contact details; brief paper abstracts (150 words or less) submitted by e-mail to [Jchin@ieas.unimas.my](mailto:Jchin@ieas.unimas.my) or [James.Chin@lcos.com](mailto:James.Chin@lcos.com), indicating a) paper title, b) author(s) & contact details & bios. – Deadline for paper submission: 1 June 2006 – Pre-conference pre-registration by 1 July 2006 = USD \$110 / RM 330 ... on site, USD \$125 / RM 360 – Conference held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Kuching (Participant rate RM185 per night... [www.holiday-inn.com](http://www.holiday-inn.com)) ... 7 other hotels in walking distance -- All payments thru bank checks payable to Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, and posted to: BRC 2006 Secretariat, Int. East Asian Studies, UNIMAS; 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak; MALAYSIA (retain a copy of your payment for verification). [www.borneoresearchcouncil.org](http://www.borneoresearchcouncil.org) and [www.unimas.my](http://www.unimas.my).

**More Information about the International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 5): Call for papers.** Sponsored by the Institute of Occidental Studies (IKON) & the Institute of the Malay World and Civilization (ATMA) at UKM – 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> August 2007 at the KL Convention Center in central KL business district, overlooking the park, the Petronas Twin Towers and near a wide range of hotels (and not far from Kampung Bahru) --Theme is "Sharing a future in Asia" -- The Organizing Committee invites proposals for institutional panels, organized panels, and individual paper presenters on all aspects of Asian research... the construction of which must take into consideration of paradigm, religion, and gender -- Suggested sub-themes are: history, religion, knowledge & philosophy, politics & international relations, society & identity, economy & business & law, development and urbanization, environment % energy, documentation & resource management & technology, arts & culture & heritage, welfare & health, language & literature, and media & communication – All ICAS friends welcome at <http://www.icassecretariat.org> – 3 categories of panels: individual (papers grouped by similar themes/subjects by organizers); institutional (sponsored & formed by various Asian studies institutions); and organized (4 paper-givers under the name of an individual panel convener) -- panelists submit 200-word bio data & 500-word abstract for each paper – Each panel consists of 4 panelists & a chairperson

appointed by the Organizing Committee; Each panel session allocated 2 hours to include presentations of 4 panelists & a q&a session – Schedule: a) deadline for individual panel abstracts = 1 Oct 2006; b) deadline for organized and institutional panels = 15 Dec 2006; c) confirmation of organized and institutional panels and visa letters will be sent out by 15 Feb 2007. All enquiries at [info@icas5kl.com](mailto:info@icas5kl.com).

### **Amnesty International**

Singapore, 28 Mar 2006 – (From Margaret John, Coordinator for Singapore & Malaysia and edited to fit available space by *Berita*) -- Former prisoner of conscience Dr Chee Soon Juan, Secretary General of the small opposition Singapore Democratic Party, was released March 24 after a week in prison following his conviction for contempt of court – In an earlier trial, when he was declared bankrupt, he criticized Singapore's judiciary for lack of independence from the ruling party – AI has expressed concern about misuse of defamation suits against critics of government and subsequent bankruptcy proceedings against them – Dr Chee and supporters had feared he would be sentenced to 3-12 months, and they said the 'light' sentence was entirely due to tremendous international pressure – Many thanks to all who responded to the appeal for Dr Chee. From Globe and Mail (Canada), 9 May 2006 -- Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong is following his father's lack of tolerance for political dissent, open debate or free media – His ruling PAP won all but 2 of the 84 seats in the parliamentary election, the same as in the last election, in 2001, but dropped in popular support from 75.3% to 66.6%, with the opposition parties gaining most among younger voters – Intensified harassment of political opponents by the governing party ... James Gomez, whose opposition Workers Party won a single seat investigated by police for "criminal intimidation" because he blamed the elections department for losing one of his required polling forms (for which he apologized)... real 'crime' that his small party won 16.3% of vote (including 1/3 of the vote in the PM's own constituency), up from 2.7% in 2001 – Leaders of another opposition party in the election, the Singapore Democratic Party, now face the familiar libel charges and possible bankruptcy.

### **Prospectus**

Berita is a bulletin board, forum and publication for all scholarly disciplines concerned with Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Studies. It is published and distributed 4 times a year: mid-month in February, May, August and November.

Address all correspondence and submissions for publication to [provinc@juno.com](mailto:provinc@juno.com) or to Ron Provencher, P.O. Box 13336, Burton, WA 98013. Submissions should be sent: 1) as an attachment to an e-mail message to the above e-mail address; OR (2) as a typed manuscript to the above mailing address. The Editor

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