



ISSN 0273-4311

Table of Contents

Editor's note 1
AAS – Malaysian R T1
Working Papers 1
Periodicals2
Books6
Amnesty International 11
Prospectus12
Research Staff12
Editor's note

I will probably act as editor of *Berita* through V.33, n.4, which will be my last issue, and then Elliott Parker will become

the editor. Meanwhile paper copy subscribers who have already paid for V. 33 will get all the paper issues you paid for; But, there will be no mailed paper copies after V.33, n.4. Instead, *Berita* will be sent only by e-mail attachments (which you can print out on paper and staple together), and which will be free to all who have access to e-mail) – If you have been a 'free' paper 'customer' and want the email issue, send me an e-mail address that you can access – Or, perhaps a colleague who receives email *Berita* would print one for you to read. rp

>**Annual Meeting, AAS – Roundtable: Malaysia's New Politics from hegemony to pluralism? 2009** – Greg B Felker, Chair -- 5 discussants: James UH Chin, Shamsul A B, K S Jomo, Claudia Derichs, and James V Jesudason – **I** Claudia Derichs, "Precis of roundtable statement" [Malaysia a transition state – Competitive democracy, pluralism and the role of civil society for political change are central to the transition process – March 2008 elections and subsequent developments can be considered a critical juncture in the post-Merdeka political history – **I** Five criteria regarded important for the transition and embedded democracy: A) electoral system; B) civil rights; C) political rights; D) horizontal & vertical accountability; and E) effective government power – Difficulties in developing a two-party system, and some lack of proficiency in governing of the five states – and more.] **II** Shamsul A B provided a version of his presentation to *Berita*"Malaysia post-2008: old politics, new trajectory" [An outline based upon the electronic format – A) **Old politics, new trajectory**: 1) oppositionism; a) two party system analytical frame applied to Malaysia (but in reality, one party system); b) more useful and relevant to apply the "oppositionalism" framework; c) contractions, conflicts, consensus, alliance, factionalism, etc, all taking place within a one party system (the Barisan Nasional School of Politics); d)... maintaining; a stable tension; e) Malaysians live in a society dominated by many contradictions... f) But they have managed to solve most of them thru a continuous process of consensus-seeking negotiations at all levels within the society... g) Sometimes the process itself becomes a solution -- 2) **One party system**: a) Ruling Party: *Barisan Nasional* ... (ed: Literally, a 'national team' of basically ethnic parties captained by UMNO) ; b) There is an opposition: weaker parties and a number of 'communities' such as: NGOs, CBOs and the electronic community -- **III** One party system, new trajectory:

A) general elections (1999); 1) 1987-88 Umno split (Mahathir/ Anwar team against another team); 2) 1997-98 Umno split (Mahathir-Anwar split)...Mahathir jumped boat 2003; 3) 2004 Badawi; 4) 2008 Badawi shackled by Mahathir – **IV** **Old strategy, new strategy**: Back to the streets, Anwar's 'weapon of the weak'; BN weaknesses as a target; Corruption, scandals, human rights – **V** **General Elections 2008: A**) Opposition: NGOs, electronic community, (new consensus by Anwar, but BN focusing only on opposition political parties & lost two-thirds majority at Federal level & 5 state governments) – Back to **III** !] >**WORKING PAPERS WORKING PAPERS working papers**

***ARI Working paper series WPS 109 Apr 2009** – Maznah Mohamad, "Islam and family legal contests in Malaysia: hedgemonizing ethnic over gender and civil rights" [-- From the Abstract at www.ari.nus.edu.sg -- Family narrative is a rich site where feminist, ethnic and nationalist politics can be projected and advocated – In the Malaysian case, feminism, cultural relativism and liberalism, vis-à-vis family litigation has been used to assert and bargain for specific political interests – Politicization of litigation involving Muslim/non-Muslim family cases has proved to be an effective means of drawing attention to the transformational potential of law in society – Concern can be reduced to a struggle between the Islamists and the secularists; However, there is a more complex process at work involving multiple contestations around middle-class competition, leadership struggles, and legitimacy of rule, rather than just an assertion of particularly religious ideologies – The family as an economic and social unit has become a terrain where acute power struggles can take place – By examining the background and outcomes of landmark inter-religious court cases in Malaysia this paper analyzes the wider socio-political implication of these contestations, especially how the representation of the family and its fragmentation has situated it within a critical interstitial domain lodged between the struggle for group affinity and also nation-state membership.] ***WPS 112 Apr 2009** -- Geoffrey Wade, "The origins and evolution of ethnocracy in Malaysia" [From the Abstract – Why is it that in the multiethnic polity of Malaysia, a single ethnic group completely controls and occupies virtually all positions in the judiciary, public administrative organs, the police, the armed forces and increasingly the universities? – While Malays constitute a majority of the population of Malaysia, their presence in all these spheres of power far exceeds their ratio within the general population ... How did this situation emerge and how has it evolved? – This paper argues that the injustices currently observed in Malaysia which exist derive essentially from the 1948 Constitution which was created by the British in alliance with UMNO following the breakdown of the 1946 Malayan Union structure, partly on the basis of British Cold War fears of the Chinese – The Constitution-mandated special place for the Malays provided for in the 1948 Constitution and subsequently in the 1957 Constitution has been used as a basis for all manner of exclusionist and discriminatory policies which have become increasingly socially encompassing, producing a situation where non-Malay members of Malaysian society feel themselves excluded and thereby ignored in terms of sentiments over this socially inequitable situation.]

***WPS 113 Apr 2009** – Ah Eng Lai, "A neighborhood in Singapore: ordinary people's lives 'downstairs'" [From the Abstract --Shows how place-making, community formation and

collective decision making are forged as part of the lesser known aspects of the larger Singapore's story of urbanization and multi-culturalism – A case study of a local public housing community that spans from the late 1980s to the present, it shows how dimensions of inter-ethnic and other social and cultural relations and practices are until the present, showing how dimensions of inter-ethnic and other social and cultural relations and practices are developed as residents live side by side and share common spaces in everyday life and on special occasions -- Their interactions in such contexts are potent sites which tell a more complex story of deeper structures of inter-ethnic conviviality, mutual-respect and learning as well as tensions, prejudices, and frustrations – Also shows how living in close proximity over time has matured public housing residents into more collective communities as they forge their own sense of place and community, learn how to better respect, tolerate and negotiate ethno-cultural differences, as well as negotiate with authorities on their preferred needs and desires – Concludes with a discussion on two dimensions of Singapore as a place (heritage and participation in decision) and place-making by ordinary citizens, in neighborhoods built and regulated by the state.]

>PERIODICALS PERIODICALS periodical periodicals

***Akademika V.72 January 2008 -- 1)** Timo Kortteinen, "Negotiating ethnic identities: alcohol as a social marker in East and West Malaysia" [From the Abstract – Regarding alcohol consumption, there are two contradicting tendencies in present day Malaysian society: a) Western influences, including the consumption of alcohol beverages, have gained ground along with industrialization and increased standards of living – On the other hand, Islam has become more influential in the country during the past couple of decades – These two contradict each other regarding alcohol consumption – Article examines present-day consumption regarding positive and negative experiences with consumption of alcohol in Peninsular and East Malaysia – The focus is to study the impact of ethnic and religious identity on alcohol consumption in East and West Malaysia – Information on West (Peninsular) Malaysia was collected in 1996-1997 and on East Malaysia in 1999 – The study is not only about quantities and qualities of alcohol consumed in Malaysia... the alcohol issue is used as a 'window' through which the broader issue of the construction of ethnic or racial boundaries in the country – Officially Malays do not drink alcohol because they are Muslims, but some Malays do – Ideologically, politically and socially drinking is used as a way of segregating races in Malaysia in general and defining the (moral) superiority of the Malay race in particular], pp 25-44; **2)** Azahan Awang & Abdul Hadi Harman Shah & Kadaruddin Aiyub, "*Penilaian makna kualiti hidup dan aplikasinya dalam bidang pengurusan persekitaran di Malaysia*" [From the Abstract – Reassessing the meaning of urban quality of life in Malaysia is part of the contribution to the environmental management discipline – Most operational definitions for quality of life are based on number of facilities or infrastructures available in urban areas ... assuming that increasing the number of facilities will increase the quality of life – Argues that quality of life does not have a static definition, even for the same environment – An empirical study conducted in Seremban to evaluate the quality of life of urban dwellers

based on three main components: public readiness, urban environment and urban accessibility – 550 respondents selected based on types of houses: high cost, medium cost and low cost residential, village houses and squatter areas that represent the diversity of social economic status in Seremban – Of course the research clearly showed that the strength of Seremban lies in its people based on the high score in the self-readiness component, compared to the urban environment and urban accessibility components – Quality of life among urban dwellers is found to be homogeneous even for different socio-economic backgrounds], pp 45-68; **3)** Idris Aman, "Bahasa dan kuasa: analisis wacana Barisan Nasional dalam pilihan umam Malaysia ke-11" [From the Abstract -- Barisan Nasional ... a coalition of several political parties which have governed Malaysia since independence in 1957, and dominated all state governments except Kelantan – Various victory factors have been stated from political scientists, sociologists, and from Public viewpoints in the mass media – In contrast, this article analyzes the Barisan Nasional victory from the linguistic perspective, the way language was manipulated and utilized, in terms of discourse, in order for the party to gain over other parties and retain political power – Believes that political power gaining management is a part of a organization's discourse management too -- Gaining political power in the context of this study is seen as a part of social practice -- The discourse chosen for this study is the Barisan Nasional 2004 general election manifesto – Analysis is based on Fairclough's framework of critical discourse analysis – Through this framework a textual and discursive practice is analysed, which will be the description of the features of vocabulary, grammar, and generic structure of the discourse text – Meanwhile, the discursive practice will be the interpretation of the production, distribution, consumption of utterances, and semiotic aspects of the discourse – Findings from both aspects will then be explained inter-connected dialectically with the acquisition of power, which is subtly hidden in the manifesto], pp 66-95.

***Anthropological Quarterly V.82, n.1 Winter 2009 – 1)** Christopher A Furlow "Technoscience in Islamic Societies – Malaysian modernities: cultural politics and the construction of Muslim Technoscientific identities" [From the Abstract – Malaysia is in the midst of enormous social transformations, and Malay identity is a key locus for these transformations – Malaysians are asking two questions: what does it mean to be Malaysian, and what does it mean to be Malay? – The government has a goal of becoming a fully developed nation by the year 2020 ... This national plan (Vision 2020) is developing in the context of contested local/global debates regarding Islam, science and modernity – Author argues that these debates are best conceptualized as competing projects for reconstructing Malaysian economy, society, and identity: and represent alternative constructions of Malaysian modernity], pp 197-228.

***Asian journal of political science V.16,n.3 Dec 2008 – 1)** Matthew Carlson & Mark Turner, "Public support for democratic governance in Southeast Asia" [From the Abstract -- The transition and consolidation of democracy in Southeast Asia has proven fragile and tenuous some 30 years after the current wave of democratization began – A critical ingredient in the process of democratization is the role of public opinion and the extent that the public supports the democratic 'rules of the

game' – Study uses 2006 & 2007 public opinion data from the Asia Barometer Survey of 6 SEA countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia & Singapore) to examine popular perceptions of democracy and democratic principles and practices – Seeks to shed light on the following interrelated questions: a) Do democratic institutions in Southeast Asia work well in the short and long term; b) To what extent are citizens in these countries satisfied with various political and civil freedoms; c) Do citizens trust specific institutions to operate in the best interests of their society; d) Does the current political system and government perform well?], pp 219-239.

***Asian journal of social science V.36.n.5 2008 – 1)** Lin Geok-choo & Chan Kwok-bun & Ko Yiu-chung, "Work stress and coping amongst lawyers in Singapore" [From the Abstract – Examines the work stressors and coping strategies of lawyers in Singapore – Data collection involved use of both quantitative and qualitative methods; A survey of 450 lawyers and in-depth interviews with 27 – Found that while time, pressure and work overload were most stressful aspects of work, social interactions and interpersonal relationships at work proved to and interpersonal relationships at work proved to be a salient work stressor, when lawyers were dealing with clients, fellow lawyers, and judges... that is, interpersonal stress – Study explains how lawyers constantly monitor and adjust their actions to negotiate for control or 'power' over others in their attempts to cope with work stress – Reveals that while lawyers tended to report more problem-focused than emotion-focused ways – Also shows that these lawyers invoked social and psychological coping resources to position themselves strategically within prevailing power relations to cope with their interpersonal stress at work], pp 703-744;

V.37, n.1 2009 – 1) Seng Guan Yeoh, "For / Against Hybridity: religious entrepreneurship in a Roman Catholic pilgrimage shrine in Malaysia" [From the Abstract – Based on ethnographic data gathered in the late 1990s in a popular Roman Catholic pilgrimage shrine in Peninsular Malaysia, this study discusses popular practices and discourses surrounding elements of everyday religious hybridization in evidence at the shrine – What are the trajectories amenable to these kinds of translations, exchanges and mixing? – How are they contested in turn and why? – What do they index about inter-faith relations – And how about contemporary religious sensibilities in Malaysia?], pp 7-28; **2)** Torsten Tschacher, "Relational miracles, cultural rituals and fear of syncretism: defending contentious Muslim practice among Tamil-speaking Muslims" [From the Abstract – Discussions of everyday Islamic religiosity commonly distinguish two forms of Muslim religiosity, one 'normative/formal' and the other 'accommodative/informal' – It is the latter form that is identified as the site of engagement with the other religious traditions – Drawing from the fieldwork among Tamil-speaking Muslims in India and Southeast Asia, interaction amongst religious traditions -- Focuses on everyday forms of Hindu religiosity in urban Singapore], pp 83-106; **3)** Daniel PS Goh, "Chinese religion and the challenge of modernity in Malaysia and Singapore: syncretism, hybridization and transfiguration" [From the Abstract – For the past fifty years a continuous anthropological interest in religious beliefs and practices among Chinese in Malaysia & Singapore under

conditions of rapid modernization – Anthropologists have used a syncretic model to explain the changes: urbanization, capitalist growth, nation-state formation, etc. – Proposes an alternative approach that questions the dichotomous imagination of spiritualist Chinese religious and rationalist modernity assumed by the syncretic model – And more], pp 107-137;

4) Jean DeBernardi, "Wudang Mountain and Mount Zion in Taiwan: syncretic processes in space, ritual performance, and imagination" [From the Abstract – Develops a detailed consideration of ways in which Chinese religious practitioners, including Daoists, Christians and spirit mediums deploy syncretism in complex fields of practice – Emphasizes the ways in which these practitioners combine elements from diverse religious traditions through the media of ritual performance, visual representation, story and landscape – After considering diverse ways that syncretic processes may be applied, the article investigates three ethnographic cases: exploring ritual co-celebration at Wudang Mountain in China, charismatic Christian practices in Singapore, and the recent development of Holy Mount Zion as a Christian pilgrimage site in Taiwan], pp 138-162.

***Asian survey V.xlix,n.1 Jan/Feb 2009 – 1)** Bilveer Singh, "Malaysia in 2008: the election that broke the tiger's back" [From the Abstract – The March 2008 general elections fundamentally altered Malaysian politics – The ruling coalition lost its two-thirds majority in the national Parliament and five state assemblies, and PM Abdullah was forced to announce his resignation – The opposition also stands a chance of forming the national government in the near future], pp 156-165; **2)** Narayanan Ganesan, "Singapore in 2008: a few highs and lows while bracing for the future" [From the Abstract – Singapore won possession of the Horsburgh Lighthouse at the International Court of Justice and its table tennis team secured Olympic medals – A detainee from the Jemaah Islamiah organization escaped – Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew's wife suffered a hemorrhagic stroke – Opposition politician Joshua Benjamin Jeyaretnam passed away – The economy slowed sharply], pp 213-219.

***Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land en Volkenkunde 164-4 2008 --**

1) Michael Boutin, review of Nelleke Goudswaard, 2005, *The Begak (Ila'an) language of Sabah*. Utrecht: Landelijke Onderzoekschool Taalwetenschap, xix+520 pp, Pb ISBN: 907686473X [Based on fieldwork in the village of Tungku in the Lahad Datu District of Sabah -- This language is spoken by about 6,000 people -- The book is a major contribution to the study of Borneo languages -- The book contains 11 chapters and 3 appendices -- The book contains a list of 2,300 words of the language, and the book covers a broad range of topics from phonology, morphology, and syntactic features of Begak using well-established descriptive practice -- A data-rich description of the language in a well-organized presentation which should bear the test of time], pp 539-542.

***Commonwealth & comparative politics V.47,n.1 Feb 2009 –**

1) Matthew Lange, "Development crises: a comparative-historical analysis of state-building in colonial Botswana and Malaysia" [From the Abstract – The construction of states with the capacity to provide collective goods is a common developmental goal, yet state-building is a very difficult process that cannot be accomplished at will – Investigates factors that make possible punctuated

BERITA – V.33, n.2 – 2nd Qtr – 2009 -- PAGE 4

institutional change thru a comparative-historical analysis of two former British colonies – Provides evidence that crises can promote reforms by transforming incentives, readjusting power relations, and forging a political consensus – Both cases show that these changes occurred during the late colonial period and therefore provide evidence that the colonial transitions had the potential to adjust the institutional legacies of colonialism], pp 1-27.

***Comparative sociology V.8.n.1 2009 – 1)** Nathan Porath, review of Lian Kwen Fee (ed), 2006, *Race, ethnicity, and the state in Malaysia and Singapore*, Social Sciences in Asia, vol. 7, Leiden, Boston and London: Brill Academic Publishers, viii+244 pp. Pb ISBN: 978-90-04-150966 [An important and informative book for its subject matter, and a contribution to ethnic and race studies, Malay/Singapore studies and Southeast Asian studies – A collection of authors/chapters concerned with the complex of ethnicized peoples who are Malays, Tamils, and Chinese of both Singapore and Malaysia; there is one chapter also on the Orang Asli of Malaysia; and the clearest case of racial-ethnicization is of the Eurasians, who until the 1990s were classified as a “racial other” within Singapore], pp 159-160.

***Far Eastern economic review Jan/Feb 2009 -- 1)** “Travelers’ tale hostings: Singapore Ink” [Lion City is hosting an international tattoo show in January; which may not raise eye brows elsewhere in the world, but remember the when Changi immigration harassed male visitors with long hair for being ‘hippies’], p 80. **March 2009 – 1)** Barry Wain, “Najib’s challenge: clean up UMNO” [A former editor of the *Wall Street Journal Asia* analyzes the background of in-coming Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamed Najib Razak and the challenges he faces], pp 33-37.

***Harvard Asia quarterly Wntr 2009: V.xii.n.1 -- 1)** Surin Pitsuwan “ASEAN and the global financial crisis: impact and implications for regional cooperation” [From the Introduction -- ASEAN countries are not immune to the most serious global economic dislocation -- Since October 2008, bourses have plummeted, currencies have depreciated and interest rates have risen -- The memory of the 1997-8 crises among ASEAN countries has made them respond strongly -- Sections on: “Impact of financial crisis in ASEAN”; “What ASEAN should do to overcome the crisis”; “Importance of policy coordination and regional cooperation (Initiatives on Chiang Mai initiative multilateralization & Asian bond markets initiative)”; and “Conclusion: need for coordinated ASEAN response to the global financial crisis”], pp 4-7; **2)** Thomas Bell, “Economic crunch in South East Asia” [The American financial crisis of late 2008 spread to Southeast Asia instantaneously, shattering any illusion that Southeast Asia was ‘decoupled’ from the US, raising memories of the Asian crisis of 1997 -- But this time SEA is sneezing while USA catches cold (or maybe pneumonia) -- Sections on “Sneezing while America catches cold”; “Weakening economics, fragile governments”; “Vietnam”; “Malaysia”; “Thailand”; “The forms and extent of Chinese ODI”; “The determinants of Chinese ODA until now”; “The appearance of the Chinese Investment Corporation”; “How the CIC is funded”; “The funds performance so far”; “The issues raised by Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWF) in general, and the Chinese CIC and SAFE in particular”; “The CIC, SAFE,

and the current global credit crunch; “The current position of the Chinese government and possible future scenarios”; “Conclusion”], pp 20-34; **3)** Claire Truscott, “Southeast Asia sneezes: Why Thailand needs its neighbors more than ever to weather the global economic crisis” [How it happened -- Southeast Asia largely insulated against the mortgage crisis... its banks had little exposure to bad debt emanating from the US... and that secured the region against early waves of contagion ... However, West remains linked to East, and with demand for Southeast Asia’s core industries manufactured goods for export, commodities and tourism... Gloomy prospects because the top 3 buyers are US, Europe & Japan -- And more], pp 60-62.

***Intellectual discourse V.16.n.1 2008 – 1)** Mahmoud M Galander, “Global communication and cultural desensitization: repacking Western values for Non-Western markets” [From the Abstract – Global communication is widely perceived as an instrument to disseminate Western values in the developing world – The “Wheel of Fortune” and “Who wants to be a Millionaire” licensed to Malaysian television stations, though the language and the word puzzles were localized, carried the same format of the original (American) show – They promote consumerism, gambling and the images of usury, the style of wealth accumulation forbidden in Islam – For the Malaysian audience whose priorities are those of contentment, modesty and humility, such emphasis on material desires breeds internal contradictions that may lead the audience to succumb to the new Western values], pp 1-19; **2)** Muhamad Fuzi Omar, “Parliamentary behaviour of the members of opposition political parties in Malaysia” [From the Abstract – In a hegemonic consociational system practice in Malaysia, the Opposition can hardly play a dominant role in making democracy work – Nevertheless, a content analysis of the debates in the House of Representatives from 1982 to 2003 show that the opposition members have contributed to the process of check and balance in the government by asking questions to relevant ministries and by initiating adjournment motions – In the process, they not merely attacked the government for their failure but also suggested alternative policies some of which were implemented by the ruling coalition] pp 21-48; **3)** Tunku Mohar Mokhtar, “The twelfth general elections in Malaysia resulted in the ruling coalition (BN) losing its two-thirds majority in Parliament – Denying the BN its sought after two-thirds majority is what the opposition parties were campaigning for – Additionally, they won five state assemblies – The electorate voted on the basis of “bread and butter” issues which were highlighted by the ruling coalition as well as the opposition parties], 89-100.

***International journal of the history of European expansion and global interaction Nr. 3 2008 – 1)** Anne Booth, “West Africa in the Southeast Asian mirror: the historical origins of the post-1960 divergence” [From the Introduction – The countries of Asia, and especially East and Southeast Asia, have performed much better in the international development stakes since 1960 than the countries of sub-Saharan Africa -- Examples especially in Singapore, Brunei, South Korea and Hong Kong, by 2000 achieving the status of “high human development” – Compares several aspects of economic development in the colonial era, including demographic change and agricultural growth, trends in exports and imports, the size

BERITA – V.33, n.2 – 2nd Qtr – 2009 -- PAGE 5

and role of government, and indicators of living standards, beginning with a discussion of the gap in per capita GDP which existed in 1960, when the Asian and African colonies had either achieved, or were on the threshold of independence], pp 61-90.

***Journal of cultural geography V.26,n.1 February 2009 – 1)**

Robert B H Goh, "Christian identities in Singapore: religion, race and culture between state controls and transnational flows" [From the Abstract – Christianity in Singapore is caught between the horns of a dilemma: on the one hand it is compelled (like all other religions practiced in Singapore) to conform to the state's controls (obviously in the form of the 'Maintenance of religious harmony space act', but also spelled out in various policies on religious space and practices, multiculturalism, and matters of financial governance and accountability) – Christianity (unlike religions with a traditional racial association such as Islam with the Malays, Buddhism, Taoism, and traditional Chinese practices) is also seen as a religion associated 'outside' or 'Western' cultural influences, one which grows its adherents at the expense of one of the other race-based religions -- This positioning forces Christianity in Singapore to constantly rationalize and adapt its processes on two fronts, simultaneously to locate itself within the nation as a rooted aspect of the national community, and also to capitalize on its global networks and its affinities to capitalist modernity – It constantly has to undergo a version of what Aihwa Ong calls a 'flexible' positioning, creating a "modernity without deracination" -- This article examines key characteristics of this positioning, especially Christianity's establishment of the discourses and practices of national 'values' such as the Asian family, interfaith dialogue and concerned social development], pp 1-23.

***Journal of East Asian studies V.9,n.1 Jan-Apr 2009 –**

Thomas B Pepinsky, "The 2008 Malaysian elections: an end to ethnic politics?" [From the Abstract – Malaysia's 12th general elections, March 8, 2008, dealt a stunning blow to the incumbent Barisan Nasional regime – The first time since 1969 the coalition did not receive its customary two-thirds majority in the lower house of parliament – Also, the opposition was able to form governments in 5 of the 11 peninsular Malaysian states – Article uses electoral, economic, and demographic data to test a number of potential explanations for these outcomes – Evidence indicates that the regime's decreased majority is the consequence of non-Malay voters rejecting the incumbent regime in favor of secular opposition parties], pp 87-120.

***Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society 3rd Series, V.19, prt 1**

Jan 2009 -- 1) Alan M Stevens, review of Russell Jones (Ed), 2007, *Lone-words in Indonesian and Malay*, 360 pp, Leiden, KITLV Press. Doi:10.1017/S13561863 08009292 [A welcome addition to knowledge of loan-words in Indonesian and Malay -- Comprehensive and very well organized; but some problems that are endemic to the nature of loan-word in Indonesian and Malay], pp 145-147.

***Malaysian Business 1st-15th Oct 2008 – 1)** Kadir Yasin, "Other thots: Najib has to revive confidence" [PM Datu Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has swapped his finance portfolio with his deputy Datuk Seri Mohd Abdul Seri Mohd Abdul Razak in a bid to show that the power transition is indeed in motion – The question is; Can the Number Two restore the faith of the rakyat in the government, and is the transition on track – The handing

over of the Finance portfolio to Mohd Naib is a matter of necessity rather than an attempt by the PM to convince the public that the handover is progressing and on track -- Anwar's deadline dilemmas have come and gone ... Sept 16 ... Sept 23 and then to Sept 24 to the KL Sessions Court and the wait until Oct 7 for the decision whether the case would be transferred to the High Court or not], pp 6-8; 2) Charles Raj, "When journalists are victimized" [The recent crackdown on journalists, both print and electronic, under the ISA's worrying, to say the least, politicians should know better than to use them as pawns in their political battles], p 10; **16th -31st Oct 2008 – 1)** A Kadir Jasin, "Najib's moment of truth" [PM Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi ends months of speculation about the leadership transition by announcing that he would not be defending the UMNO President's post next March, effectively paving the way for his deputy, Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Abdul Razak to become the Number One – Can the latter handle the task, considering the world is undergoing a financial crisis of epic proportions], pp 6-8; **16th -31st Jan 2009 -- 1)** Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: the BN's litmus test" [The ruling coalition is under pressure to retain the Kuala Terengganu Parliamentary seat in the coming by-election after its dismal performance in last year's general election – But the fact that government-linked companies have been involved in controversial proposals lately, like the privatization of the National Heart Institute, and the building of a billion-ringggit low cost carrier terminal in Labu has dented its image – How can it regain its popularity then?], pp 6-8; 2) Charles Raj, "Commentary: a case of one too many?" [A new billion-dollar low-cost carrier terminal is to be built in Labu under a private finance initiative by low-cost carrier AirAsia and conglomerate Sime Darby – This is in addition to another new LCCT being planned next to the KL International Airport by Malaysia Airports Holdings – What's the rationale? – So at the end of the day, one GLC's move (SIME) will adversely affect another, in this case, MAHD – Isn't this a waste through duplication of resources?], p 9.

***South East Asia research V.16,n.3 Nov 2008 -- 1)** Rajeswary Ampalavanar Brown, "Islamic endowments and the land economy in Singapore: the genesis of an ethical capitalism, 1830-2007" [From the Abstract -- Emphasizes the deeply embedded economic interests of Islamic charities: accumulation of land and property, commercial and financial activities, rather than their role in providing social welfare, education, and facilities for individuals to perform the *Hajj* -- These priorities are global, since the *waaf* (Islamic endowment) is linked to the homeland of the founders in the Hadhramaut and to Saudi Arabia – Appraises the application and success of Islamic finance in the commercial exploitation of the assets -- Shifts to the role of Shari'a law in determining and shaping the issuance of bonds and derivatives -- Finally, about 'ethical capitalism' and a brief comparison drawn with the Chinese or Confucianist *Tong* (lineage)], pp 343-403 ; 2) Choon Yin Sam, "Economic nationalism in Singapore and Thailand: the case of the Shin Corporation-Temasek Holdings business deal" [From the Abstract -- Economic nationalism often associated with the mercantilist view -- Being nationalist is viewed as non-conventional in the age of globalization in which cross-border trade and investment are perceived to bring benefits to all participants -- Questions this notion of economic nationalism – Argues that in today's context, policy changes

that appear to be 'nationalist' may not be totally inconsistent with policies advocated by liberals -- This description of economic nationalism is applicable to Singapore and Thailand, particularly in this case study involving the Shin Corporation of Thailand and Temasek Holdings Limited of Singapore -- Shows that the governments did not hesitate to arouse local support to maximize their respective national interests while remaining active in regional and global initiatives. The decisions of the Thais and Singaporeans reflect the trend towards an increasing discomfort with globalization] , pp 433-459.

>BOOKS BOOKS books books

Acemoglu, Daron & James A Robinson** –2009—Economic origins of dictatorship and democracy***, 432 pp. Cambridge University Press. Pb ISBN: 13: 9780521671422 [Part I: 4 cases: Singapore, Britain, Argentina, and South Africa – The authors' agenda & argument & theory of democracy & aspects of democracy – Part II: Modeling Politics – Part III: Creation and consolidation of democracy -- Part IV: Putting the models to work – Part V: Conclusion and the future of democracy; Part VI: Paths of political development revisited; Appendix to Section 4: The distribution of power in democracy; 1) Introduction, 2) Probabilistic voting models, 3) Lobbying, 4) Partisan politics and political capture.]

Ba, Alice D** –2009—(Re)Negotiating East and Southeast Asia: region, regionalism,, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations***, 344 pp. Palo Alto: Stanford, CA. ISBN: 10-0804760691 [From www.sup.org/book -- Seeks to explain 2 core paradoxes associated with ASEAN: a) How have diverse states hung together and stabilized relations in the face of competing interests, divergent preferences, and arguably weak cooperation; and b) how has a group of lesser, self-identified Southeast Asian powers gone beyond its original regional purview to shape the form and content of Asian Pacific and East Asian regionalisms? – Part 1 (“Theory and Origins”): a) “The ASEAN paradox and IR theory”, b) “Why ASEAN? Why 1967?”, c) “The ideas that bind: negotiating ASEAN’s ways” -- Part 2 (“ASEAN’s new regionalisms”): d) “The politics and rhetoric of “One Southeast Asia”; e) “Locating ASEAN in East Asia and the Asia-Pacific”; f) “ASEAN of and beyond Southeast Asia: renegotiating ASEAN’s role for a Post-Cold War Asia”; g) Renegotiating East Asia: the ‘Idea that will not go away’; h) “Conclusion” – Abbreviations are used in Notes, and Bibliography.]

Battersby, Paul** –2007—To the islands: White Australia and the Malay Archipelago since 1788***, 266 pp. Lexington Books. Hb ISBN: 0-7391-2051-4 / 978-0-7391-2051-4 – [A unique perspective on the evolution of economic, social and political interconnections between Australia and its island region spanning 2 centuries, from the early years of British colonization to the present – Argues that globalization processes are drawing Australia incrementally closer to modern Southeast Asia and Asia Pacific – Traces the history of Australia’s regionalization beginning from the 19th century to the experiences of Australian travelers, tourists, prospectors, mining entrepreneurs in the Dutch Indies, Malaya and Siam/Thailand – Challenges the orthodox view that Australia’s relations with its regional neighbors were insignificant before the outbreak of 1941 – In placing economic and social interactions before political and security concerns in the

analysis of Australia’s regional relations, the book highlights the role of non-state actors and people-to-people connections in shaping the contours of Australian diplomatic engagement with SEA and the Southwest Pacific and Australia.]

Beng, Ooi Kee & Johan Saravanamuttu & Lee Hock Guan** –2008—March 8 eclipsing May 13***, 131 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Hb ISBN: 978-981-230-897-2 [From the catalog – For a whole generation of Malaysians, no proper closure to the trauma of the racial riots of 13 May 1969 has been possible – But then came 8 March 2008 – The surprising results of the General Election on that special day have started eclipsing the fears linked for so long to that spectral night 40 years ago.]

Bolkiah, Mohamed** –2008—A Southeast Asian community: more than a matter of geography***, 28 pp. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. Pb ISBN: 978-981-230-786-6 [The Inaugural Southeast Asia Lecture on 19 February 2008, which also formed the keynote address on the concurrently held Brunei Forum in which the Bruneian Ministers for Education, Energy, Foreign Affairs, and Industry and Primary Resources discussed Brunei’s efforts to diversify its economy, develop its ecotourism industry, harness its education and human resources, expand its energy sector, and carve a niche in ASEAN.]

Cameron, John** –1865—Our tropical possessions in Malayan India***, 408 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Hb ISBN: 978-981-05-8825-0 [From the catalog – A descriptive account of Singapore, Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca; there people, products, commerce, and government – The Straits Settlements, particularly Singapore in 1864 – A vibrant description of the East.]

Dennell, Robin** –2008—The Palaeolithic settlement in Asia***, 572 pp. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pb ISBN 9780521613101 [From the catalog -- Provides the first analysis and synthesis of the evidence of the earliest inhabitants of Asia before the appearance of modern humans 100,000 years ago – Africa and Europe have had much more attention regarding human origins, but Asia is no longer considered of marginal importance – Examines a variety of sources... archeological evidence, the fossil hominid record, environments and climates of Southwest, Central, South, Southeast Asia, and China – An authoritative and comprehensive framework for investigations of Asia’s oldest societies, challenging many long-standing assumptions about its earliest inhabitants, and places Asia centrally in the discussions of human evolution in the past two million years – Contents: 1) Asia and its place in palaeo-anthropology ; 2) The African background to the colonization of Asia; 3) The climatic background to hominid settlement in Asia before a million years ago; 4) The earliest inhabitants of Southwest Asia; 5)The earliest inhabitants of South and Southeast Asia and China; 6) ‘Out of Africa’ reconsidered and the earliest colonization of Asia; 7) The climatic and environmental background to hominid settlement in Asia between about 1 million years ago and the last interglacial; 8) The middle Pleistocene archeological record of Southwest and Central Asia; 9) The middle Pleistocene archeological record of the Indian sub-continent; 10) the archeological record of China and Southeast Asia ca. 800-125 ka; 11) Human evolution in Asia during the Middle Pleistocene.]

Denton, Robert Knox** --2008—Overwhelming terror: love,***

fear, peace, and violence among Samai of Malaysia, 292 pp. The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group. Pb ISBN: 0-7425-5330-2 / 978-0-7425-5330-9 [From www.rlpbooks.com]. This book the product of four decades among Semai, demonstrates that their ways of life are not rare and strange, but a continuation of the ways of successful ancient egalitarian societies – The author's applying lessons learned among the Semai to contemporary American problems, succeeds in a way that makes one proud to be an anthropologist (from a review by Carol Laderman) – The book opens with the horrific circumstances that the author argues gave rise to Semai peaceability, describing their adaptation to their circumstances, and closes by sketching the eventual decline under the pressures of globalizations – Dentan argues that the Semai approach to conflict is a successful Darwinian adaptation... essentially in surrendering to maintaining this adaptation – Highlights the mechanisms and costs of peace and their relevance to everyday life in all societies.]

***Devadason, Evelyn S –2007—Labour demand and trade in manufactures: issues and evidence from Malaysia**, xvi+183 pp. Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Press. ISBN: 983-100-442-5 [Part 1 provides a comprehensive account of the development trends of labor and trade in Malaysian manufactures; and Part 2 brings these trends in labor and trade in a coherent manner for empirical examination of trade-labor links -- Contributes a better understanding and appreciation of trade-labor links from the perspective of a middle-income country.]

***Ee, Tan Siew & Rosnah Opai (eds) –2008—The economy of Brunei Darussalam: perspectives and insights**, 386 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Pb ISBN: 978-983-3026-04-3 [From the catalog – Deals with pertinent issues such as economic diversification, development planning and its impact on societal welfare, patterns and determinants of consumption, expenditures and savings, trade flows and their effects, monetary demand and supply and taxation have been selected for in-depth discussions and analysis by specialist writers – The empirical results and findings of all these studies should prove interesting to readers interested in Brunei economic affairs and to local policy makers.]

***Fernando, Joseph M –2007—Federal constitutions: a comparative study of Malaysia and the United States**, xvi+125 pp. Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Press. ISBN: 983-100-410-8 [Comparative studies of constitutions are a useful approach to obtain a deeper understanding of the underlying principles of the system of governance -- Although the federal constitutions of Malaysia and the USA were framed in different eras, they share many similarities: the idea of dual sovereignty, the bicameral legislature and the doctrine of separation of powers, are integral to both systems of governance – Focuses on the distribution of legislative and financial powers, which are central elements in the working of the federal system of governance, in both constitutions – Also examines the constitutional debates leading to the formulation of the constitutions of both countries to discern the guiding principles, ideas, compromises and intentions of the framers.]

***Foot, Rosemary –2008—Framing security agendas: U.S. counter-terrorist policies and Southeast Asian responses**, 60 pp. Washington DC: East-West Center; Singapore: ISEAS Publishing [From www.EastWestCenter.org/ -- What has it meant to be labeled

the '2nd front' in the 'global war on terror'? – Have SEA states accepted that the primary threat their countries face is Al-Qaeda-inspired violence – Are other security concerns deemed more pressing? – Study investigates perception in 4 Southeast Asian countries: Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines – Probes the extent to which their security concerns align with those of Washington, together with their preferred means for dealing with terrorist violence -- The major findings are, in all four countries, that the U.S. counterterrorist security agenda has shaped security perceptions as well as security behavior, though to a greater extent in the Philippines and Singapore than Indonesia and Malaysia -- The most important effect in SEA of this change in US security priority after 9/11 has been sociopolitical in nature, even where an individual government might not perceive the threat from terrorism to be the major security challenge that it faces – In each of the 4 states, involvement in the US decision to give overwhelming attention to counterterrorist action has sharpened the focus on long-standing security concerns, especially those connected with the security of the political regime or unity of society – These countries' domestic concerns interact in complex and subtle ways with their security relationship with the US, as well as affecting the methods that the individual governments have used to deal with their security relationship with the United States, and as well as affecting the methods that the individual governments have used to deal with actual or potential terrorist violence inside their countries.]

***Funston, John –2008—Southern Thailand: the dynamics of conflict**, xi+82 pp. Singapore: ISEAS, paper, electronic format [From www.EastWestCenter.org/ -- Examines the tragic conflict in Thailand's southern Muslim-majority provinces near the Malaysia border – Wide national and international interest but no agreement exists on the cause of the resumption of violence in an area that had remained free of major conflict for 2 decades – This monograph critically examines explanation for the conflict and traces its evolution from the early 1990s to the beginning of the Samak government in 2008 -- Points to a wide array of factors that were important in the resumption of the conflict, with policies of PM Thaksin Shinawatra being critical in determining the timing and intensity of the violence – These conditions include: 1) the resumption of an age-old conflict between Malay Muslims from Pataki, Yala, and Narithiwat Provinces against a discriminatory central government; 2) entrenched problems of criminality in an area far from the capital and with a porous border with Malaysia; 3) the disbanding of important conflict resolution institutions by former PM Thaksin, who then gave priority to hard line security policies; 4) growing Islamic religiosity, influenced by regional reform movements and international developments, including the example of extremist such as Jemaah Islamiyah; and 5) the growth of southern insurgent movements... which have never issued public demands and whose real leaders remain unknown – In this complex setting, no resolution to the violence appears likely in the near future, as Thaksin's main policies have been retained since the September 2006 coup that ousted his government.]

***Ghani, Sirajoon Noor et al –2008—health care in Malaysia**, xvii+293 pp. Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Press. ISBN: 978-983-100-444-9 [From the catalog -- Written mainly to provide information about the development of health care services available in Malaysia -- Focus on the public sector, which provides the bulk of health services, although the private sector plays an important role in health care -- Book provides an understanding of the development of health services and its current status in Malaysia and is useful to medical students and other students pursuing postgraduate health programs in Malaysia and for other scholars concerned about the

delivery of health care in Malaysia.]

*Gopal, Sangita & Sujata Moorti (eds) –2008—*Global Bollywood: travels of Hindi song and Dance*, 352 pp. University of Minnesota Press. Pb ISBN: 978-0-8166-4579-4 / 10:0-8166-4579-5 [From www.upress.umn.edu/Books -- A lively look at Bollywood music's global impact – Describes the many roots and routes of the Bollywood song-and-dance spectacle, the essays offer a stimulating redefinition of globalization, highlighting the cultural influence of Hindi film music from its origins early in the twentieth century to today – Sujata Moorti & Sangita Gopal, "Introduction" -- Part I: Home Terrains – Ch1, Anna Morcom, "Tapping the mass market: the commercial life of Hindi film songs"; Ch2, Biswarup Sen, "The sounds of modernity: the evolution of Bollywood film song"; Ch3, Nilanjana Bhattacharjya & Monika Mehta, "From Bombay to Bollywood: tracking cinematic and musical tours"; Ch4, Shanti Kumar, "Bollywood and beyond: the transnational economy of film production in Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad"; Ch5, Anustup Basu, "The music of intolerable love: political conjugality in Mani" – Part II: Eccentric Orbits – Ch6, Bettina David, "Intimate neighbors: Bollywood, Dangdut music, and globalizing modernities in Indonesia"; Ch7, Walter Armbrust, "The ubiquitous non-presence of India: peripheral visions from Egyptian popular culture"; Ch8, Ronie Parciack, "Appropriating the uncodable: Hindi song and dance sequences in Israeli State promotional commercials" – Part III: planetary consciousness – Ch9, Sangita Shresthova, "Dancing to an Indian beat: 'Dola' goes my diasporic heart"; Ch10, Edward K Chan, "Food and cassettes: encounters with Indian filmsong"; Ch11, "Queer as Desis: secret politics of gender and sexuality in Bollywood films in diasporic urban ethnoscaapes"; Ch12, Richard Zumkhalawa-Cook, "Bollywood gets funky: American hip hop, basement bhangra, and the racial politics of music."]

*Goransson, Kristina –2009—*The binding tie: Chinese intergenerational relations in modern Singapore*, ?? pp. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press [From the catalog – Since 1965, Singapore has become the most trade-intensive economy in the world and the richest country in Southeast Asia – This change has been accompanied by a generational divide more complex than simple disparities of education or changes in income and consumption patterns, this gulf encompasses language, religion, and social memory – Explores how expectations and obligations between generations are being challenged, reworked, and reaffirmed in the face of far-reaching societal change.]

*Hamid, Abu Bakar A et al –2009—*The university at Pantai Valley: glimpses of the past*, xx+176 pp. Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Press. Pb ISBN: 978-983-100-474-6 [From the catalog – Deals with the decade of the 1960s, referred to by many as that decade when Pantai Valley became renowned throughout the academic world was because we brought together some of the best scholars from many parts of the globe to this University of Malaya.]

*Heng, Derek –2009—*Sino-Malay trade and diplomacy from the tenth through the fourteenth century*, 304 pp. Ohio University Press. Pb ISBN: 978-0-89680-271-1 [From the catalog – This study's uniqueness and value lie in its integration of archeological, epigraphic, and textual data from both China and Southeast Asia to provide a rich, multilayered

picture of Sino-Southeast Asian relations in the pre-modern era.]

*Idid, Syed Ahmad –2007—*Internet and e-commerce alternative dispute resolution*, xviii+149 pp. Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Press. ISBN: 983-100-421-3 [From the catalog – [A compilation of contributions on internet developments in Asia, including generic top level domains such as .com, .org, and .net; and country-code top level domains such as .cn, .hk, and .my -- The writers enlighten readers regarding unique and innovative dispute-resolution processes regarding domain names and e-commerce disputes – Ten writers from Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong provide an overview of internet developments in Asia and the use of of Alternative Dispute Resolution process for the resolution of domain name disputes as well as domain names and the legal issues involved -- Case studies from: 1) the Asian Domain Name Dispute Resolution Centre (ADNDRC); 2) the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC); 3) the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC); 3) Kuala Lumpur Centre for Arbitration (KLRAC) and the World Intellectual Property Organization.]

*Ismail, Tawfik & Ooi Kee Beng –2008—*Malaysia's first year at the United Nations: as reflected in Dr Ismail's reports home to Tunku Abdul Rahman*, 130 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Hb ISBN: 978-981-230-902-0 [Dr Ismail's writings and speeches, and his letters to the Tunku, covering a variety of foreign policy issues – A valuable asset in understanding the unique role he played in the nation's history – He was the primary architect of Malayan (Malaysian) foreign policy.]

*Jones, Gavin W & Chee Heng Leng & Maznah Mohamad (eds) – 2009?—*Muslim-non-Muslim marriages in Southeast Asia*, ??? pp. Singapore: ISEAS. ISBN ????? [From the catalog – INTRODUCTION: 1) Chee Heng Leng, Gavin W Jones & Maznah Mohamad, "Muslim-non-Muslim marriage: rights and the state in Southeast Asia"; SECTION I (Political and legal contestations) 2) Ratno Lukito, "Trapped between legal unification and pluralism: the Indonesian Supreme Court's decision on interfaith marriage"; 3) Maznah Mohamad, Zarizana Aziz, & Chin Oy Sim, "Private lives, public contention: Muslim-non-Muslim family disputes in Malaysia"; 4) Mark Cammak, "Legal aspects of Muslim-non-Muslim marriage in Indonesia"; 5) Suhadi Cholil, "The politico-religious contestation hardening of the Islamic law on Muslim-non-Muslim marriage in Indonesia"; SECTION II (Lived realities) 6) Mina Elfira, "Not Muslim, not Minangkabau: interreligious marriage and its cultural impact in Minangkabau society"; 7) Amporn Marddent, "Interfaith marriage between Muslims and Buddhists in Southern Thailand"; 8) Jolanda Lindenberg, "Interethnic marriages and conversion to Islam in Kota Bharu"; SECTION III (Perspectives) – 9) Siti Musdah Mulia, "Promoting gender equity through interreligious marriage: empowering Indonesian women"; 10) Noor Aisha Abdul Rahman, "Muslim-non-Muslim marriage in Singapore" .]

*Latif, Asad-ul Iqbal –2009—*Three sides in search of a triangle: Singapore-American-India relations*, 212 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Hb ISBN: 978-981-230-885-6 [Singapore is USA's closest security partner in SEA -- The United States has decided to help India become a major world power in the 21st century, an objective furthered by the nuclear agreement between them -- Singapore's relationship with India is an increasingly pertinent feature of SEA's political and strategic landscape – Will these three realities together lay the basis of a triangular relationship among Singapore, USA and India is the question that this book seeks to answer.]

*Lebra, Joyce C –2008—*Women against the RAJ: the Rani of*

Jhansi Regiment, 132 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Pb ISBN: 978-981-230-808-5 [A ground-breaking history of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, part of the Indian National Army led by the Bengali revolutionary Subhas Chandra Bose during World War II – The regiment, a forgotten part of “the Forgotten Army”, was composed largely of teenage volunteers from the Malayan rubber estates, girls who had never seen India yet were eager to enlist to liberate India from colonial bondage -- Bose, creator of the Regiment, connected a historical thread extending from the original Rani of Jhansi, killed in battle by the British in 1858, through Bengali women revolutionaries of the 1930s, to the Regiment, which he hoped would spearhead the liberation of India.]

***Lim, Regina** –2008—**Federal-State relations in Sabah, Malaysia: the Berjaya Administration**, 153 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Pb ISBN: 978-981-230-811-5 [From the catalog – A study of the political development of the Malaysia state of Sabah under the the administration of Parti Bersatu Rakyat Jelata Sabah (Sabah People's United Party), which controlled the state legislature between 1976 and 1985 – The book attempts to disentangle the three dominant themes within social scientific studies of Sabah: 1) the issues of federalism; 2) the politics of ethnicity; and 3) and the political economy of development.]

***Murphy, Ann Marie & Bridget Welsh (eds)** –2008—**Legacy of engagement in Southeast Asia**, 412 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Pb ISBN: 978-981-230-770-5 [From the catalog – A rich collection of essays that explores dramatic political, economic, and social transformations in Southeast Asia since 1945 – Academics and practitioners trace three themes: 1) transformations within Southeast Asian countries; 2) the actors and processes that contributed to these changes; 3) the new dynamics in foreign relations – These diachronic essays examine the how engagement among Southeast Asians and between regional and outside actors have affected patterns of democracy, development, and international relations.]

***Mutalib, Hussin**—2008—**Islam in Southeast Asia**— 94 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Hb ISBN: 978-981-230-758-3 [From the catalog – A general survey of Islam in Southeast Asia intended to inform, explain and update readers about the more significant aspects of Islam in Southeast Asia, then and now -- Includes: a) geographical origins and sources regarding the spread of Islam in the region; b) social , economic and political profiles of the Muslims and non-Muslims; c) relations between Muslims and non-Muslims and the state; d) stands and trends that shapes the role of Islam and the Muslims in the national body politic; e) and the challenges confronting Muslims in the vicissitudes of their lives in an era of rapid change characterized by modernization, capitalism, secularization and globalization.]

***Nair, Ramesh et al** –2008—**Constructing identities in the Malayan media**, xi+165 pp. Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Press. ISBN: 978-983-100-466-1 [About exploring the way representations are normalized in a society – Illustrates how language plays a crucial role in construction of reality in media texts – A looks at the discourse of media through multiple perspectives – Advances the understanding of how the media works in producing meaning and construction of reality – advocates the reading of texts through a critical lens that encourages mindful media, particularly Malaysian media texts.]

***Nelson, Joan M & Jacob Meerman & Abdul Rahman Haji Embong (eds)** –2008—**Globalization and national autonomy: the experience of Malaysia**, 353 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Pb ISBN: 978-981-230-816-0 [From the catalog –

Malaysia has had an ambivalent relationship with globalization – A shining example of export-led growth and the positive role for foreign investment, the country's political leadership has also expressed skepticism about the prevailing international political and economic order – They consider the full spectrum of issues from economic and social policy to new challenges from transnational Islam, and are unafraid of voicing skepticism where the effects of globalization are overblown.]

***No author / editor cited** --2008—**The Department of Orang Asli Affairs, Malaysia: an agency for assimilation** , iv+23 pp. New Delhi, Asian Indigenous & Tribal Peoples Network. ISBN 8190231879 [From K.K.Agencies www.kkagencies.com -- No description of contents.]

***Noor, Farish A & Yoginder Sikand & Martin van Bruinessen (eds)** –2009—**The madrasa in Asia: political activism and transnational linkages**, 270 pp. Amsterdam University press; Distributed by University of Chicago Press. Pb ISBN: 9789053567104 [f From the web www.press.uchicago.edu/presssite -- Since the rise of organizations such as the Taliban and Al Qaeda, traditional Islamic schools (*madrasa*) sometimes have been portrayed as places for terrorism -- But for a much longer the madrasa has been considered an old fashioned impediment to Islamic social progress – But in an important part of the poor Muslim populations of Asia, madrasas constitute the only accessible form of education and an opening to the wide world -- This book presents an overview of the world inside of the walls of madrasas in India, Pakistan, China, Malaysia, and Indonesia -- **Introduction**, Amsterdam Farish A Noor & Yoginder Sikand & Martin van Bruinessen, “Behind the walls: Re-Appraising the role and importance of madrasahs in the world today”; -- **Ch1**, Yoginder Sikand, “Voices for reform in the Indian madrasas”; **Ch2**, Dietrich Reetz, “Change and stagnation in Islamic education: the Dar al-'Ulum of Deoband after the split in 1982”; **Ch3** , Mareike Winkelmann, “ ‘Inside and outside’ in a girls’ Madrasa in New Delhi”; **Ch4**, Mariam Abou Zahab, “Between Pakistan and Qom: Shi’l Women’s madrasas and new transnational networks; **Ch5**, Farish A Noor, “The uncertain fate of Southeast Asian Students in the madrasas of Pakistan”; **Ch6**, Jackie Armijo, “Muslim education in China: Chinese *Madrasas* and linkages to Islamic schools abroad”; **Ch7**, Farish A Noor, “From pondok to parliament: the role played by the religious schools of Malaysia in the development of the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS); **Ch8**, Martin van Bruinessen, “Traditionalist and Isamist pesantrens in contemporary Indonesia”; **Ch9**, Noorhaidi Hasan, “The Salafi Madrasas of Indonesia” -- Contributors; Glossary; Acronyms and names of organizations, Movements and Institutions; Maps Index.]

***Pepinsky, Thomas Blake** –2009—**Economic crises and the breakdown of authoritarian regimes: Indonesia and Malaysia in comparative perspective**, 296 pp. Cambridge University Press. Pb ISBN: 13- 9780521744386 [From www.cambridge.org/us -- Some authoritarian regimes topple during financial crises, while others steer through financial crises relatively unscathed -- Pepinsky uses the experiences of Indonesia and Malaysia and the analytic tools of open economy macroeconomics to answer the question -- Focuses on the economic interests of authoritarian regimes’ supporters, Pepinsky shows that differences in cross-border asset specificity produce dramatically different outcomes in regimes facing financial crises -- When asset specificity divides supporters, as in Indonesia, they desire mutually incompatible adjustment policies, yielding incoherent adjustment policy followed by regime collapse -- When coalitions are not divided by asset specificity, as in Malaysia, regimes adopt radical adjustment measures that enable them to survive financial crises –

Combining rich qualitative evidence from Southeast Asia with cross-national time-series data and comparative case studies of Latin American autocracies, Pepinsky reveals the power of coalitions and capital mobility to explain how financial crises produce regime change – Contents: 1) Crises, adjustment, and transitions; 2) Coalitional sources of adjustment and regime survival; 3) Authoritarian support coalitions...comparing Indonesia and Malaysia; 4) Adjustment policy in Indonesia, June 1997-May 1998; 5) Adjustment policy in Malaysia, June 1997-December 1999; 6) Authoritarian breakdown in Indonesia; 7) Authoritarian stability in Malaysia; 8) Cross-national perspectives; 9) Conclusions.]

Powell, Richard (ed) –2008—*Motivations for language choice in Malaysian courtrooms: implications for language planning, xi+98 pp. Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Press. ISBN: 978-983-100-458-6 [Explores whether language shift (both Malaysian and English have *de jure* standing) in Malaysia should go much further in the interest of justice – In most of the post-colonial world, legal administration through the medium of the former colonial language is the rule, even in polities where a local language is more widely understood and has official status – Also, discusses the issue of how lawyers orientate themselves to the constraint of language policy while carrying out the complex linguistic tasks within a bilingual professional environment – Their preferences for Malay and English is likely to reflect dynamically related through the constraints of official language policy and its implementation by specific judges.]

Sen, Tan Ta –2009—*Cheng Ho and Islam in Southeast Asia, 312 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Pb ISBN: 978-981-230-837-5 [Although not the first book on Cheng Ho and Islam in Southeast Asia, but the first that puts Cheng Ho's voyages in the larger context of 'culture contact' in China and beyond – Has garnered numerous sources, from published documents, architectural sites and buildings, to support his arguments – Has done much more than previous scholars writing on the subject.]

Severino, Rodolfo & Elspeth Thomson & Mark Hong (eds) –2009?—*Southeast Asia in a new era: ten countries, one region in ASEAN, ??? pp. Singapore: ISEAS. ISBN ??????? [Contents: 1) Daljit Singh, "Southeast Asia: an overview"; 2) P Thambipillai, "Brunei Darussalam"; 3) Sorpong Peou, "Cambodia"; 4) J Soedradjad Djiwandono & Leonard C Sebastian, Republic of Indonesia; 5) Martin Stuart Fox, "Laos"; 6) Johan Saravanamuttu & Oii Kee Beng, "Malaysia"; 7) Tin Maung Maung Than & Kyaw Yin Hlaing, "Myanmar"; 8) Noel M Marada, "The Philippines"; 9) Ho Khai Leong, "Singapore"; 10) Pavin Chachavalpongpun, "Thailand"; 11) Le Pang Doanh & Pham Hoang Ha, "Vietnam"; 12) Rodolf C Severino, "The Association of Southeast Asia Nations in a new era"; 13) Mark Hong, "Afterword: Southeast Asia in a new era"; 14) "About the authors".]

Shiong, Tan Tok –2009—*Welfare economics in Malaysia, xiii+126 pp. Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Press. ISBN: 978-983-100-455-5 [From the catalog – Presents theories on welfare economics using easily understood examples commonly found in Malaysia – Insights concerning welfare issues faced in contemporary society – Welfare theories are translated into useful techniques that can be applied to aid decision makers – Some case studies using these techniques are presented.]

Shiraishi, Takashi (ed) –2008—*Across the Causeway: a multi-dimensional study of Malaysia-Singapore relations, 276 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Pb ISBN: 978-981-230-783-5 [From the catalog -- Considers Malaysia-Singapore relations from a range of disciplinary perspectives -- Geographic proximity, historical linkages, material flows, and movements have long connected the peoples and territories of Malaysia and Singapore in various ways and with varying degrees of intensity – Relations between the two countries have been shaped not only by competing visions of the nation and the different trajectories taken by these countries' nation-building projects, but also by the reality of economic interdependence and competition, security cooperation, and increasing embedded-ness in the market-created East Asian region.]

Singh, Daljit (ed) –2009—*Southeast Asian Affairs 2009, 400 pp. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. Pb ISBN: 978-981-230946-4 [From the catalog -- Provides an informed and readable analysis of the events and developments in the region in 2008 -- The first three articles in the regional section of the volume provide a political and economic overview of Southeast Asia and its near neighbors – There are eleven country reviews and seven special theme articles follow, all about domestic political, economic, security conditions, social developments, economic conditions during 2008 with consequences and implications for countries in the region and beyond -- See especially: a) the chapter on *BRUNEI DARUSALAM* (No author stated in the catalog, *Brunei Darussalam in 2008*); b) *MALAYSIA* i, Johan Saravanamuttu, *Malaysia in 2008: political transformation AND intrigue in an election year* AND ii, Barry Wain, *Profile of Najib Razak*; and c) *SINGAPORE* i, Terence Chong, *Singapore in 2008* & ii, Tommy Koh, *A theme paper on Singapore*.]

Swee-Hock, Saw –2008—*Corporate citizenship in Singapore, 120 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Hb ISBN: 978-981-08-0838-9 [From the catalog – A detailed analysis that documents the practice of corporate giving in Singapore – Survey findings of 482 Singapore incorporated companies, provide a detailed account of corporate contributions made in 2005 & 2006 -- It delves further into the underlying philosophies that influence corporate giving decisions such as those pertaining to the selection of recipient organizations and size of contribution -- With its comprehensive coverage, this book is a timely and useful resource to community relations practitioners, non-profit leaders, social policy-makers and anyone who is interested in how the corporate sector has fared as a whole in answering the call for a more caring society.]

Tan, Kevin --2008—*Marshall of Singapore: a biography, 614 pp. Singapore: ISEAS. Pb ISBN: 978-981-230-877-1 [From the catalog – David Marshall (1908-1995) was one of Singapore's most remarkable sons – Rapidly qualifying as a barrister, he became Singapore's greatest criminal and constitutional lawyer -- In 1955, he found himself the leader of the Labour Front and Singapore's first Chief Minister, and his 14 months in office brought about the withdrawal of the British from Singapore -- But his personality and impatience made him an unlikely politician – In the twilight of his career he was appointed Singapore's first ambassador to France – He was for many, Singapore's "missionary of democracy".]

Tiwary, Shiv Shanker & P S Choudhary –2009—*Encyclopaedia of democracy, power and politics of Southeast Asia, 3 vols – Contents: vol 1, viii-315 pp; vol 2, viii-298 pp; vol 3, viii-311pp. 1st ed. New Delhi, Anmol Publications ISBN 8126138395 (Set) [From the K.K.Agencies website www.kkagencies.com -- Vol 1: a) "Preface"; b) "Southeast Asia: an introduction"; c) "State of Brunei"; d) "The Kingdom of Cambodia"; e) "The Republic of Indonesia"; f) "The

Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste”; Bibliography, and Index – Vol 2:

a) “Preface”; b) “Malaysia”; c) “Socialist Republic of Vietnam”; d) “Union of Myanmar”; e) Bibliography, and Index – Vol 3: a) “Preface”; b) “Laos”; c) “The Kingdom of Thailand”; d) “Republic of the Philippines”; d) “Singapore”; Bibliography, and Index.]

Tucker, Judith E –2008—*Women, family, and gender in Islamic law, 268 pp. Cambridge University Press. Pb ISBN: 9780521537476

[An analysis of Islam law through the prism of gender -- How has Islamic law discriminated against women and privileged men? What rights and powers do women have, and how do they use the system to expand their social and economic rights – Answers these questions about the position of Islamic women, the ways that the legal system impacts the family, property rights, space and sexuality, from through the centuries – Utilizes feminist legal theory and particular cases to illustrate arguments, systematically addressing discrimination, the law, and the participants – Contents: 1) Introduction; 2) Woman as wife and man as husband... making the marital bargain; 3) Woman and man as divorced... asserting rights; 4) Woman and man as legal subjects... managing and testifying; 5) Woman and man in gendered space... submitting.]

Tuck-Po, Lye –2004-- *Changing pathways: forest degradation and the Batek of Pahang, Malaysia, 256 pp.

Lexington Books. Hb ISBN: 0-7391-0650-3 / 978-0-7391-0650-1 [From www.lexingtonbooks.com -- Batek hunter-gatherers living in lowland forests of NE Peninsular Malaysia have acute sensitivity to its degradation, and want the world to know about their worries and critiques of the causes of degradation – Beyond a recounting of Batek environmental concerns, the book examines the cosmological basis for these concerns, the changing focus of the cosmology, the stories and histories through which the Batek express their place in the world, and suggests how environmental degradation might affect their knowledge, perception, and politics -- An invaluable resource for environmental anthropologists and hunter-gatherer specialists but applied resource managers around the world – Table of contents: a) Introduction; b) Communicating degradation; c) The world of the forest; d) In the beginning; e) A sense of place; f) Gathering in the forest; g) To see, to hear, to walk, and to know; h) Changing pathways.]

Uhde, John & Yvonne Ng Uhde –2009—*Latent images: film in Singapore, 480 pp. Singapore: NUS Press. Pb ISBN:

978-997169-456-2 [From www.nus.edu.sg/niupress -- First published in 2000, now expanded and updated with over 50 new features in the 2nd edition: presenting new discoveries about the city’s film history, which throw light on its earliest feature productions – The update includes new chapters that investigate Singapore cinema in its regional and wider contexts; short film production and its impact on the development of filmmaking in the country; the role of censorship and film classification – New interviews with industry professionals and filmmakers are included, while expanded appendices provide quick reference to bio-filmographies of important Singapore filmmakers; the Singapore International Film Festival statistics and awards; and a comprehensive list of films produced in Singapore between 1927 -- and more.]

***van der Putten, Jan & Mary Kiline Cody (eds) –2009—**

Lost times and untold tales from the Malay World. 428 pp. NUS Press. Pb ISBN: 978-9971-69-454-8 [From the website, www.nus.edu.sg/nuspress -- Inspired by the wry yet deeply

scholarly perspectives of Australian philologist Ian Proudfoot, the editors of this book bring together a distinguished group of international scholars who look at calendars and time, royal myths, colonial expeditions, printing, propaganda, theater, art, Islamic manuscripts, erotic literature, and many other topics from wholly unexpected angles – Demonstrates spectacular scholarship of the diversity of Malay World, and shows that offbeat texts can produce fascinating insights into the past.]

Varma, Sumati –2007—*Currency convertibility: Indian and globalexperiences, xvi+259pp. kkgencies kka1996@vsnl.net, 1st ed, New Delhi: New Century Publications. ISBN: 8177081381 [Includes Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, South Korea, Mexico and South American countries.]

Weatherbee, Donald E –2008—*International relations in Southeast Asia: the struggle for autonomy, Second Edition. 348 pp. The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group. Pb ISBN: 0-7425-5682-4 / 978-0-7425-5682-9

[From the website www.rlpbooks.com – A fully revised and updated edition of Donald Weatherbee’s widely praised text that offers a clear and comprehensive introduction to the international relations of contemporary Southeast Asia – Author analyzes the Southeast Asian states’ efforts to adapt to a regional international relations of contemporary Southeast Asia – Analyzes the Southeast Asian states efforts to adapt to a regional international environment that is characterized by the security demands of the war on terrorism; the economic demands of globalism; and the political demands of nontraditional issues such as democracy, human rights, the environment, and gender -- Such shifting dynamics take place in a broader framework of diminished US power and enhanced Chinese influence that could well undermine Southeast Asian - - An essential text for courses on Southeast Asia and on the international relations of the Asia-Pacific.]

>AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (Abstracted from full reports by Margaret John, A ICanada, Coordinator for Malaysia & Singapore, e-mail: malaysiasingaporecoordinator@amnesty.ca) –

1) AI release, on 23rd February 2009, by Nora Murat, Executive Director – Amnesty International Malaysia views with concern the statement made by Deputy IGP Tan Sri Ismail on this date about the relevance of the Internal Security Act 1960 (ISA) – Amnesty regrets that the Deputy IGP being the guardian of public interest and rights had given blanket approval to the most draconian and unjust law in Malaysia– Public protests and critics on the ISA had risen to an unprecedented level, reemphasizing the concerns and arbitrariness of the ISA – Now, once a person is detained under the ISA, he or she has no effective recourse to legal protection, nor an opportunity to establish their innocence of accusations leveled against them – As such the ISA is contrary to basic principles of international law, including the right to liberty of the person, to freedom from arbitrary arrest, to be informed of the reasons for arrest, to the presumption of innocence, and to a fair and open trial in a court of law – The ISA fails to provide any precise definition or criteria for determining which individuals pose a danger to state or public security and judicial explanation – For over 20 years AI has repeatedly called for the repeal of the ISA and for the immediate release of ISA detainees whom it considered to be prisoners of conscience held solely for the peaceful expression of their political or religious beliefs – Now that the arbitrary and unjust detention

and the facilities of Guantanamo Bay is coming to close, it is especially time for the ISA and Camp Kamunting to be shut down as well.

2) AI release, on 13th March 2009, "Malaysia: stop prosecution of bloggers charged with insulting Sultan" – The Malaysian government should stop persecuting six bloggers charged today for comments criticizing a Malaysia Sultan, Amnesty International said today – One of the bloggers has already pleading guilty and been fined, while the other five face charges in KL under the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 – The organization called on the Malaysian government to drop all charges against the five and to reverse the conviction of one the bloggers who pleaded guilty and paid a RM10,000 (US\$2,700) fine to avoid being imprisoned for five months – The charges against the 6 come at a time of heightened tension in Perak State about the role of the monarchy and accusations that the government is trying to shut down discussion about this debate... the internet was one of the few venues available for Malaysians to express their views freely, and now it looks like the government will extend its restrictions on free press to the web, Sam Zarifi (AI's Asia-Pacific Director) said... "For a country that claims to be on the cutting edge of communications technology, this is a very troubling step backward" – Azrin Mohammed Zain, 33, the blogger who pleaded guilty, is the first person ever to be convicted under the Act; this is the first time the law has been used to charge people for comments posted on the internet – Trial dates in April and May have been set to here evidence against the five, who have been released on bail – If found guilty, they could face jail terms of one year and fines up to RM50,000 (US\$13,500).

3) Malaysia: human rights agenda for new government – As Najib Tun Razak prepares to take over as Prime Minister of Malaysia, Amnesty International said that the new administration faces major human rights challenges that need to be addressed, calling on the new PM to initiate urgent reforms to the justice system in 5 key areas, as follows: a) Arbitrary arrest & detention; b) Freedom of expression; c) The death penalty; d) Torture, ill-treatment and deaths in police custody; and e) Migrant and refugee rights.

4) on 3 April 2009, AI's international Secretariat issued a public statement on the appointment of a new Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Razak, calling for him to implement changes that would have an impact on the serious human right situation – Therefore it is welcome that in his first address to the nation as PM, Najib announced the release of 13 ISA detainees, the lifting of the suspension on two opposition publications (*Harakah* and *Suara Keadilan*), and a pledge to undertake a review of the Internal Security Act – The released detainees are: a) Hindraf leaders V Ganabathirau and R Kengadharan; b) Suspected members of militant Islamic group Darul Islam, A Artas A Burhaanudin, Idris Lanama, Francis Indanan, Mohd Nazri Dolah, Pakana Selama and Mohd Arasad Patangari; c) suspected member of Islamic militant group Jemaah Islamah, Wan Amin Wan Hamat; and d) foreign nationals V Sundaraj (India), San Khaing (Myanmar), and Amir Hussain (Myanmar) – AI Canada is likely to post a website appeal in the coming week on AI's recent public statement and these developments.

4) Posted 9 April 2009 – In his first speech as Malaysia's new Prime Minister, Najib Razak announced the release of 13 individuals held without trial under the Internal Security Act

(ISA) lifted a band on two opposition publications, and promised a review of the draconian ISA – These are significant developments in the midst of widespread human rights campaigning in Malaysia and worldwide – They follow the recent examination of Malaysia's human rights record by the United Nations Human Rights Council – Canada strongly advocated fundamental change as part of the UPR of Malaysia.

5) Posted 14 April 2009 – Brunei's human rights situation is to be examined by the UN Human Rights Council later this year under the Universal Periodic Review process, which provides an opportunity for international scrutiny and pressure for change – The UPR process allows every member state of the UN to have its human rights record examined once every 4 years. Malaysia was recently examined and recommendations made for improvements.

6) Posted 22 April 2009 – Once again the Singapore government has misused the law to restrict the right to freedom of expression – In the latest development... the passing of the Public Order Act ... the right to peaceful assembly is further tightened and police powers are enhanced, which underlies widespread criticisms of Singapore as contravening international standards of human rights as expressed not only by AI and other human rights organizations, but also other prominent organizations such as IMG, World Bank, the International Bar Association, Parliamentarians for Global Action, the Liberal International and European Parliamentarians – In Canada, concerns have been expressed by Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, IFEX, human rights lawyer Robert Amsterdam, individual parliamentarians, journalists and Singapore: further restrictions others.

7) Posted 23 April 2009 -- AI is concerned about the 13 April passage into law of the Public Order Act (POA), which restricts the right to peaceful assembly and enhances police powers without providing adequate safeguards to prevent abuse – The government stated that the Act is needed to combat the threat of terrorist acts during the Singapore summit of heads of state of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in November -- Under the PAO, a cause –related 'procession' of even 2 people requires a permit... which government critics state as virtually impossible to obtain – The Act also enhances police power to deal with a prohibited event by stopping, searching or turning away any actual or possible participants – Failure to comply could result in arrest without a warrant, a fine or imprisonment – The Act is the latest misuse of laws that tighten control of, and penalize, peaceful demonstrators, the media and government critic – In the past year, 18 individuals were charged for holding unauthorized marches against the rising cost of living – And the Act is a contravention of Singapore's own Constitutional rights to freedom of speech and expression, to peaceable assembly and to the formation of association – And more.

>PROSPECTUS

Berita is a quarterly (beginning with V.27, n.1) bulletin board, forum and publication for all of the scholarly disciplines concerned with Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Studies. It is published mid-month in February, May, August and November. Address correspondence and submissions for publication to: rprovenc@juno.com or Ron Provencher, P.O. Box 13336, Burton, WA 98013.

>RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION STAFF

Barbara L. Provencher, M.A. (History)

Haron Omar Abdullah, B.A. With Distinction in Anthropology