

The Historical Development of Japanese Investment in Malaysia (1910-2003)

Iqbal U*

History Programme, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, National University of Malaysia, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: Iqbal U, History Programme, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, National University of Malaysia, UKM 43650, Bangi Selangor, Malaysia, Tel: 60389215555; E-mail: uqbah@siswa.ukm.edu.my

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Editorial

Written by Uqbah Iqbal, this book aims to review the pull and push factors involved and the characteristics of Japanese investment in Malaysia before and after independence. The study was conducted after the author found that there was a need to fill the void because there is no scientific study, thesis or public works that touch on Japanese investment in Malaysia in full from the time of British colonial administration until the time of Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, a long period of 93 years.

British colonial era has brought changes in the economic structure of Malaya. Malaya economic activity is growing rapidly and this prompted the British to bring in foreign workers from India and China to work in the agriculture and mining sectors. This leads to changes in the lives of indigenous people in Malaya at that time when their country now consists of three main races, namely Malay, Chinese and Indian to date. Even after achieved independence the Federation of Malaya adopt pro-British, but Tunku Abdul Rahman realized the need to work together with Japan to reduce dependence on the British. The country also needs Japanese capital as an alternative source of economic development. Economic relations between Malaysia and Japan continued to grow during the administration of Tun Abdul Razak when Japan's Official Development Assistance channelled to Malaysia to finance government projects.

The establishment of Malaysia-Japan Economic Association (MAJECA) and Japan-Malaysia Economic Association (JAMECA) strengthen economic ties between Malaysia and Japan during the

administration of Tun Hussein Onn. Continuity of the Look-To-The-East Idea during the era of the three previous prime minister saw Japan emerge as the largest foreign investor in Malaysia when Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad took over leadership of the country. Japanese investment in Malaysia has received priority through the implementation of the Look East Policy. Look East Policy add Japanese investor confidence in Malaysia, causing Japan emerged as the largest foreign investor in Malaysia between 1980-2012 despite the absence of the Investment Guarantee Agreement between the two countries.

This book aims to add a collection of readings on Malaysia-Japan relations. It is suitable for those interested in understanding the relationship between Malaysia and Japan, East Asia lecturer, East Asian thinkers, those involved economic relations with Japan, university students from various schools and to the general reader in society. The author of this book has winning second place in Malaysian historical essay writing competition 2013, he was the recipient of Research University Fellowship Scheme from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, MyBrain 15 (MyPhD) postgraduate scholarship programme from Ministry of Education Malaysia, Graduate on Time Award and Outstanding Student Award from Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and the only Malaysian achieved a Ph.D. in History in conjunction with the 43rd Convocation of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. 30 Journals recognized him as one of the Best Social Scientist, Reviewer, Author, Editor, Reviewer Board Member and Editorial Board Member and 9 of his articles get appreciation.