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Scholars shape great leaders

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Referred Academic Journal

iiste.org

Fast Review, Publishing & Printing International Journal(US Published)

Are these books on our shelves?

MASTERY of historical events, the overarching ideas and recurring concerns of national existence are a must for those responsible in shaping national futures. It is critical that every leader embarks on the exciting journey of mind and heart that will frame their understanding of what the nation is about.

The contents that should shape the heart of leaders are those generated by great scholarship. Among some of the period works which may develop an understanding so necessary for responsible leadership are the following:

TAN Sri Khoo Kay Kim's Malay Society studies the evolution of Malay political culture from the Malacca Sultanate through the centuries to the processes of democratisation and Malay political leadership in a plural nation;

RICHARD Windstedt's A History of Classical Malay Literature provides an in-depth understanding of Indian and Islamic heritage, Persian, Arabian and Javanese Panji models of mystics and theologians who influenced Malay culture;

STUDIES on the Malay Pantun by François-René Daillie demonstrates the richness of the Malay world, insights into Malay identity and the Malay mind;

SEEDS of Separatism by Loh Fook Seng traces the embedded social structures ensuring the divisiveness of the peoples;

K.J. RATNAM'S Communalism and the Political Process in Malaya explains the issues which form the basis of communal disagreements leading to the political consequences of communal divisions;

AN Introduction to the Constitution of Malaysia by Tun Mohamed Suffian and The Malaysian Legal System by Wu Min Aun provide basic legal

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literacy for all;

ORIGINS of Malay Nationalism by W.R. Roff insightfully traces the ideas, personalities and organisations which engender the Malay agenda of political development,

THE Politics of Belonging by Margaret Clark Ruff chronicles the independence of Sabah and Sarawak from Britain and the formation of Malaysia, the facilitation of political processes and emergence of political parties and new leaders;

THE Communist Insurrection in Malaya (Anthony Short) discusses communism in Malaysia within the larger communist insurrection in Southeast Asia while May 13 (Government of Malaysia) provides official perspectives of the issues leading to incidents considered a national tragedy;

TIME Bombs in Malaysia (Lim Kit Siang) warns of racial strife if various national issues are not addressed justly and with a sense of urgency, and the Malay Dilemma (Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad) discusses Malay identity, Malay concerns and destiny;

WITHOUT Fear or Favour (Tan Sri Dr Tan Chee Khoon) grapples with matters of concern to national society while Looking Back (Tunku Abdul Rahman) offers reflections regarding the rise of nationalism, the decline of imperialism and the development of regional outlook in Southeast Asia;

DEMOCRACY Without Consensus (Karl Von Vorys) provides critiques of the unique version of democracy as experimented in Malaysia;

INTELLECTUALS in Developing Societies and The Myth of the Lazy Native (Datuk Syed Hussein Alatas) debunk colonialist stereotyping and set clear directions of confidence among Malaysians and peoples of developing countries. Datuk Dr Nordin Selat describes the emergence of a powerful elite class who became the leaders of the public and civil services;

A MALAYSIAN Journey by Rehman Rashid etches biographical narrative and vignettes exploring the country and soul of a Malaysian;

CHINESE (Teong Jin Tan) and Indian (Sinappah Arasaratnam) contributions to the development of Malaysia are acknowledged in an increasing number of academic and popular literature works;

IDEAS and first principles regarding social justice and interfaith dialogues are explored and advocated by scholars like Dr Chandra Muzaffar;

DATUK Dr Zainal Aznam Yusof and Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam provide understanding of the economic challenges of the nation; and,

LANGUAGE and Society in Malaysia (Asmah Omar) enlightens readers on the mosaic of Malaysian languages while Kamal Hassan provides deep insights into moderate Islam.

Deep thinking and understanding foster the sensibilities of hearts and soul to understand that, more than anything else, the majority of Malaysians want life opportunities for themselves and their families and peace among the communities.

The people of Malaysia deserve good leaders, not rabble-rousers or hatemongers who will only bring destruction to the dream of millions. The question is whether Malaysian leaders and the educated citizenry are familiar with any or all of these works, which are so important in shaping

a deep understanding of Malaysia.



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