

MOZAFFARI FALARTI, Maziar

BA Bond, MA in International Relations Bond University

Thesis Title:

Kedah: the foundations and durability of Malay kingship

Supervisors:

Professor Carl A. Trocki (Principal)

Dr Hossein Adibi (Associate)

Citation:

The thesis examines traditional sources of power, control and indigenous socio-political systems in the Malay world. In doing so, it looks at the north-western Malaysian kingdom of Kedah, acknowledged as the oldest unbroken Malay royal line and one of the oldest in the Muslim world. The study explores Kedah's unique geopolitical, spiritual and environmental features. It argues that Kedah does not follow, and in fact, often seems to contradict what has been commonly accepted as the "typical model" of the traditional Malay state. Thus it concludes that the ruling dynasty has historically exploited a wide range of unique environmental conditions, local traditions, global spiritual trends and economic forces to preserve and strengthen its political position. The thesis attempts to offer a new understanding, not only of Kedah, but of the political and cultural development of the entire Malay world and of its relationships within its continental and maritime settings.