

Malay
HISTORICAL
THOUGHT

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Hussain Othman



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Preamble

Studies conducted by western scholars on the history of the Malays since the beginning of the European colonisation had resulted in a number of undesirable outcomes. The works resulted from these studies were detrimental to the worldviews of the Malays and it was through these works that the misconceptions on the Malay history mainly originated. The misconceptions rooted from two major factors. Firstly, the western biased views towards the Malay history due to their pride over the superiority of their political power within the Malay region. Secondly, the rampant negative perceptions over the classical Malay historical texts. In order to counter their arguments and to reestablish a proper Malay concept of history, this study had suggested a reinvestigation on the Malay classical texts using a proper and appropriate method.

This study aims at a redevelopment of the Malay historical thought particularly its conceptual aspect as understood by the Malays from their classical historical texts. For the purpose of the study, three great books (Karya Agung) of Malay history, namely Hikayat Raja-raja Pasai, Sejarah Melayu or Malay Annals and Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa were selected to be the major sources from which the Malay historical thought could be unveiled and redeveloped.

Generally, this study employed a traditional historical and cosmological analysis method which is neither quantification nor psychohistory. Specifically, the philological and traditional cosmological methods were two major approaches utilized in order to unveil the concept of Malay history from the selected texts. In philological method, the main concern is to study the external contents of the classical Malay historical texts. While in the traditional cosmological approach, the internal aspects of the texts were analyzed by utilizing the traditional cosmological and semantic approaches as practiced by the scholars in this field. Modern historical approaches had indeed unable to explain most of these internal aspects of the contents particularly regarding the mythological and legendary aspects.

Through these approaches, a remarkable finding showed that the Malays owned a very special concept of history. Even the most unhistorical aspects of the classical Malay historical texts were finally discovered to have embodied a number of significant historical values. Some suggestions and recommendations had been made for further studies in the future.

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List Of Abbreviations

ABIM	Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (Malaysian Muslim Youth Movement)
DBP	Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka
HMM	<i>Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa</i>

HRP	<i>Hikayat Raja-raja Pasai</i>
ISTAC	International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization
JIAEA	Journal of Indian Archipelago and East Asia
JMBRAS	Journal of Malayan Branch Royal Asiatic Society
JRAS GBI	Journal of Royal Asiatic Society Great Britain and Ireland
JRASSB	Journal of Royal Asiatic Society Singapore Branch
JSAH	Journal of Southeast Asian History
MBRAS	Malaysian Branch of Royal Asiatic Society
MS	Manuscript
MSS	Manuscripts
SM	<i>Sejarah Melayu or Malay Annals</i>

Arabic Transliteration Table

ء	'
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	h
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	s
ض	d

ط	t
ظ	z
ع	'
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y
ة	-ah
ال	al-

Vowel

Long	ا	a
	آ	A
	و	u
	ي	i
Doubled	ي	iyy (final form i)
	و	uww (final form u)
Diphthongs	ؤ	au or aw
	يَ	ai or ay
Short	َ	a
	ُ	u
	ِ	i