

This volume represents an ambitious attempt to evaluate one of the world's leading Islamist parties over the course of six decades. It succeeds admirably, and is the best available work on PAS and political Islam in Malaysia.

REFERENCE

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Indians in Singapore 1819–1945: Diaspora in the Colonial Port City. By Rajesh Rai. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2014. xxix+325 pp.

Rajesh Rai's commendably detailed and well-researched book sketches the history of Indian migration to Singapore and teases out the specificities and complexities of diaspora and development in the urban landscape of the Asian port city. In doing so, it fills an important lacuna in diaspora studies of Indians in this frontier outpost which has received little attention. Chapter One traces the origins of the Indian population of Singapore. Soldiers arrived first — with Stamford Raffles himself — and some sepoy and camp auxiliaries, including dhobis, remained in the port city. Tamil Muslim traders, known as Chulias or Klings, were the next group of Indians to arrive. Singapore also became a convenient stopover for Parsi merchants, while Chettiars established a niche in the financial sector. Between 1825 and 1860, labour shortages were partially solved by the importation of several thousand, mostly male, Indian

convicts. These convicts made an important economic contribution to Singapore, and many settled there permanently.

Until 1867 unregulated labour migration, chiefly from south India, also contributed to the growth of a civilian population of Indian origin, which numbered almost 13,000, or fifteen per cent of the total population of the city, by the 1860s. Rai presents fascinating sketches of early community development: the first temples were characterized by eclecticism, and institutions serving specific caste communities came later. Similar trans-ethnic collaboration is evident in the history of mosque construction. As in other Indian diaspora communities, Hindu and Muslim Indians in Singapore came together to celebrate festivals such as Muharram. Rai interprets this annual event as a matter of “symbolic representations of power and territorial control in an urban landscape” (p. 48). European anxieties over and attempts to control or suppress Indian processions came to a head in 1857, the year of the Indian mutiny.

Chapter Three addresses the factors governing Indian labour migration to Singapore in the period after 1867, when the Straits Settlements became a crown colony no longer dependent on the Bengal Presidency. It interweaves the story of Indian labour migration with that of Sindhi merchants and Punjabi policemen. It explores the locales in which members of these groups settled. Chapter Four discusses the matter of disciplining Indian society in the colonial port city, especially in light of technological developments and the concomitant growth of information networks. The description of flashpoints and of manifestations of discontent crystallizing around Muharram processions accords with similar incidents reported among Indian diaspora communities elsewhere, such as in Trinidad. The chapter charts the development of education among the Indian population and, in particular, the parallel growth of English- and Tamil-medium schools. It also examines the creation of identity markers such as Tamil newspapers and religious organizations in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Singapore. It assesses the causes and effects of the 1915 mutiny of Indian soldiers in the local garrison.

The implications and influences of events occurring in India and the broader diaspora — notably the Komagata Maru tragedy of 1914 — are the concern of Chapter Five, which also offers further analysis of the dissemination of Indian nationalist ideology to Singapore in the interwar years. The formation of ethnic organizations by caste and religion attests to efforts to project discrete cultural identities, while economic depression solidified class interests through the trade union movement. Chapters Six and Seven cover the period of the Second World War, when Japanese troops occupied Singapore, and consider the nationalist fever that gripped the Indian community, which culminated in the mass recruitment into the Indian National Army headed by Subhas Chandra Bose. Rai's comprehensive survey of the history of Singapore's Indian community ends with the re-establishment of British control in 1945.

This volume will surely stand the test of time to remain an indispensable resource for the study of the history of Singapore's Indian community for many years to come.

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The Future of Singapore: Population, Society and the Nature of the State. By Kamaludeen Mohamed Nasir and Bryan S. Turner. Abingdon: Routledge, 2014. xi+146 pp.

The Future of Singapore addresses pressing issues surrounding the nation's demographic changes and population dilemmas. Focusing on Singapore's history, geopolitical location and neoliberal aspirations, the authors explain the effect of falling fertility rates on the country. Against this background, the book delves into the country's policy responses, including conscription and pronatalist and immigration