

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND
POLITICAL
COMMUNITIES
IN MALAYSIA**

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SOCIAL MEDIA AND POLITICAL COMMUNITIES IN MALAYSIA

EDITED BY

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Acknowledgements

The terrain of political debate is ever evolving in a world where information is shared at a speed never seen before and communication technology is advancing at an exponential rate. Social media's advent has changed how people interact with one another online, which has led to the growth of online communities and the modification of political narratives. Our volume, *Social Media and Political Online Communities in Malaysia*, endeavours to explore the impact of digital platforms on political discourse and critically examine the digital interactions that occur within various online communities in Malaysia.

This compilation is the culmination of extensive research and collaboration with scholars and researchers who are experts in their field and have dedicated their time and expertise to comprehensively unravel the complexities and dynamic intersection between social media and various political online communities in Malaysia. We are extremely grateful to the contributors of each chapter, whose committed dedication and scholarly rigour to shedding light on the multifaceted landscape of digital discourse in different Malaysian online communities have enriched this collection with diverse perspectives and insights on the intricate relationships between social media and political engagement. Their research, analysis and thoughtful reflections provide a comprehensive overview of the role that online communities play in influencing political opinions, shaping public discourse and impacting the democratic fabric of Malaysia. We would also like to thank the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute for supporting and facilitating this book project from the initial stages to its fruition, especially Ms Lee Sue-Ann, coordinator of the Media, Technology and Society Programme, for believing in this initiative.

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It is our sincere hope that this book sparks further ongoing dialogue and inquiry into the ever-changing intersectional relationship between social media and political discourse in Malaysian online communities. We hope that readers will gain deeper insights and understanding of the role social media plays in shaping political communities in Malaysia, as well as the challenges and opportunities that arise.

Pauline Pooi Yin Leong and James Chin

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