
THE ACHINESE & THE MINANGKABAU



GOODMARK

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PREFACE

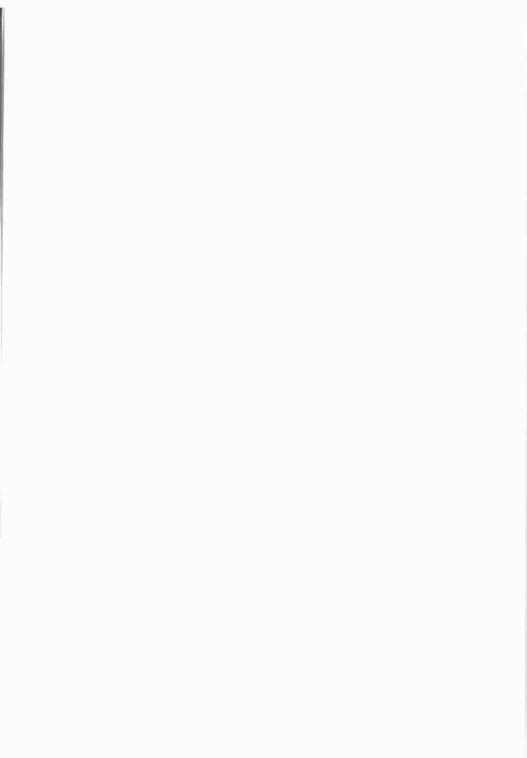
Our country is well known as a country which was colonized. The colonialists had brought about some good and bad effects to the people of Malaysia today.

Besides that, there are immigrants of various races who have now become part of the people of this country.

These impact of colonialism and the migration of people of various races have made Malaysia unique.

This historical series is published to help students of primary and lower secondary schools to enhance their understanding of the history of our country.

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THE ACHINESE AND THE MINANGKABAU

THE ACHINESE

You must have heard about the Melaka sultanate that was established in 1400 by Parameswara. This government developed into a centre for trading and Islamic propagation in the region of the Malay Archipelago.

Melaka was a world trade centre. Melaka could have been described as a famous "super-market" of the world.

Foreign traders were allowed to stop over freely. They came from countries like Burma, Ceylon, India, Arab, Parsi, China and Japan.

All the progress achieved by the Melaka sultanate did not last long. The Portuguese were soon interested in the riches of Melaka. They attacked and occupied Melaka in 1511. What happened to Melaka after that?

After capturing Melaka, the Portuguese were against Islam. They looked down on Islam. They took the tombstones from the Islamic cemetery to build the fort A Famosa. They wanted to spread the Roman Catholic faith.

The Portuguese started to oppress the traders who wanted to trade in Melaka. They imposed heavy taxes on the traders. They wanted to become rich quick. They knew that those traders who passed by the Straits of Melaka would have to stop over at Melaka.

The traders started to look for other ports. They searched for a port which would give them better trading opportunities and provide them with safety. They started to flock to the port of Aceh. Aceh was located in the northwest of Sumatera.

The port of Aceh progressed when many traders traded there. It became a substitute for the port of Melaka. The Aceh government wanted to take over the trade monopoly in the Straits of Melaka. Therefore, it became the enemy of the Portuguese.

In 1521, the Aceh government attacked and captured Pedir in Sumatera. Pedir had been the source of quarrel between the Portuguese and Aceh. Pedir was an important producer of black pepper in Sumatera.

The Portuguese settlement in Pedir was destroyed. The Portuguese were chased away from Pedir. This had brought shame to them. They then treated Aceh as their worst enemy.

They wanted to quash the power of Aceh.

The Portuguese became angrier with Aceh when Sultan Ali Mughayat Shah turned port of Aceh into a free port. Traders from the West like the Dutch and the British started to arrive in Aceh.

The Aceh traders sold their black pepper to foreign traders. These traders did not pass through the Straits of Melaka. They sailed along the west coast of Sumatera heading towards Jawa Island, crossing the Straits of Sunda.

When Melaka was occupied by the Portuguese, Sultan Mahmud Syah had to escape to Muar. From Muar he shifted to Pahang. From Pahang he shifted again to Pulau Bintan. The Portuguese kept pursuing Sultan Mahmud Syah.

In 1526, the Portuguese attacked Pulau Bintan. Sultan Mahmud Syah shifted to Kampar, Sumatera, and died there in 1528.

Sultan Mahmud Syah's second son, Sultan Alauddin Riayat Syah, succeeded him. He built his palace at Kota Tinggi, along the river bank of Sungai Johor. From there he tried to recapture Melaka that was in the hands of the Portuguese.

While Sultan Alauddin Riayat Syah was fighting against the Portuguese in Johor, he got to know that a new power growing. That new power was Aceh. Aceh wanted to capture Melaka as well and take control of the Straits of Melaka. At that time, Aceh was already an important trading centre.

The three powers, the Portuguese in Melaka, Johor and Aceh, had to fight for the control over the Straits of Melaka. The war that erupted was known as the Tringular Warfare.

Sultan Alauddin Riayat Syah ruled from 1537 to 1571. During his reign, Johor had to fight off the attacks from Aceh several times. At that

time, Aceh was ruled by Sultan Alauddin Riayat Syah Al-Kahar.

In 1536, the Portuguese attacked Johor. The Johor army suffered heavy losses. As a result of the war, Johor had to make peace with the Portuguese. They teamed up to fight against Aceh.

In 1564, Aceh attacked Johor Lama, the new capital of Johor. Sultan Alauddin Riayat Syah was captured and brought to Aceh. He died there. His son was allowed to return to Johor and to rule over Johor. His title was Sultan Muzaffar Syah.

The Aceh government became stronger when Sultan Iskandar Muda Mahkota Alam became the Sultan in 1607. He attacked Johor again. Batu Sawar, the capital, was destroyed. Sultan Muzaffar Syah (1597-1613) was captured. He and his family together with Raja Seberang (Raja Abdullah) were brought to Aceh.

A marriage was arranged between Raja Seberang and the princess of Sultan Iskandar Muda Mahkota Alam. Raja Seberang was then sent back to Johor to rule over Johor with the title Sultan Hammat Syah or Sultan Abdullah. With that, the Aceh government set foot in Johor.

In 1602, a Dutch ship arrived at Batu Sawar. Sultan Hammat Syah took this opportunity to ask for help from the Dutch to fight against the Portuguese and Aceh. Johor agreed to sign a treaty with the Dutch. This was discovered by Aceh. Aceh immediately attacked Batu Sawar and destroyed it.

Sultan Hammat Syah shifted to Bintan because his capital at Sungai Johor was unsafe. He then shifted again to Lingga, further to the south.

Sultan Hammat Syah developed Pulau Lingga. Lingga became an important trade centre. Traders



Areas of Achinese influence

from Patani, Siam, Jawa and Makasar traded there.

Acheh found out about the development of Pulau Lingga and was jealous. In 1623, Acheh attacked Pulau Lingga. Sultan Hammat Syah escaped to Pulau Tambalan and died there.

In 1575, Acheh attacked Perak because Perak had helped Johor to fight against them. Why did Perak help Johor to fight against Acheh?

Perak was founded by the eldest son of Sultan Mahmud Syah, Sultan Muzaffar Syah. Sultan Alauddin Riayat Syah who established the Johor Lama government was the second son of Sultan Mahmud Syah. Therefore, these two sultans tried to defeat Acheh.

Acheh captured Perak in 1620. Sultan Mansur and his family were brought to Acheh. His son was made the Sultan of Acheh with the title Sultan Alauddin Mansur Syah.



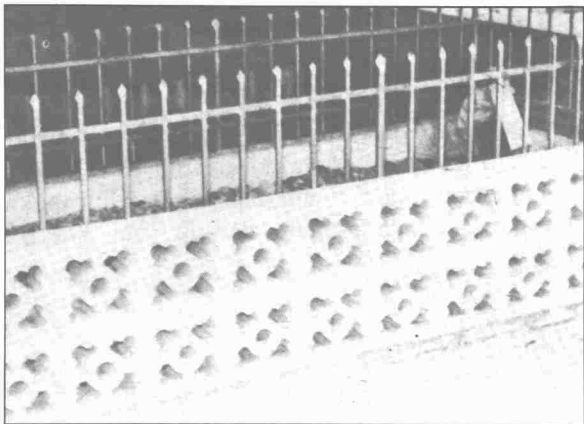
Port of Melaka

The younger brother of Sultan Alauddin Mansur Syah was sent back to Perak to rule over Perak. His title was Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin. He was the third Sultan of Perak. Since then, Perak was controlled by Aceh. Perak was famous for its tin production.

In 1641, the Dutch captured Melaka from the Portuguese. The Dutch tried to control the tin trade in Perak. Therefore, the Dutch fought over Perak with Aceh. The Dutch made a treaty with Aceh in 1639.

According to the treaty, Aceh allowed the Dutch to buy tin from Perak. When they occupied Melaka, the Dutch wanted the Sultan of Perak to sell all the tin to the Dutch only. The Sultan of Perak refused to follow the directive.

The Dutch tried to surround Perak but failed. In 1650, the Dutch signed a treaty with Aceh. According to this treaty, the Dutch were allowed to have control over the trade in Perak.



Sultan Mahmud Syah's Mausoleum

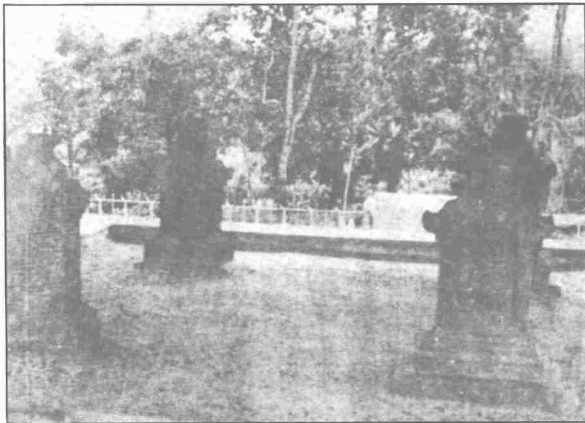
Pahang was also ruled by the descendant of the Melaka Sultan. This happened when Raja Muhammad, the son of Sultan Mansur Syah, killed the son of the Bendahara Tun Perak, Tun Besar.

Tun Besar was playing *sepak raga*. Suddenly, the ball that was kicked by Tun Besar hit the tengkolok of Raja Muhamad. Raja Muhamad stabbed Tun Besar.

As punishment, Raja Muhamad was banished to Pahang on the advice of Tun Perak. Raja Muhamad became the first Sultan of Pahang. Later, he was succeeded by Raja Ahmad who used the title Sultan Ahmad Shah.

During the reign of Sultan Abdul Ghafar, the Dutch arrived in the Straits of Melaka. At that time, Aceh was growing stronger. Aceh attacked Johor. The Sultan of Johor tried to obtain the assistance of the Portuguese in Melaka.

When Sultan Abdul Ghafar passed away, the



Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah I mausoleum

Portuguese appointed Raja Bujang as the ruler of Pahang. Raja Bujang was the son of the Sultan of Johor. The son of Sultan Abdul Ghafar was set aside. The son of Sultan Abdul Ghafar tried to get the help of Johor to fight against Aceh.

In 1636, Iskandar Thani succeeded Iskandar Muda Mahkota Alam as the Sultan of Aceh. He was the adopted son of Iskandar Muda Mahkota Alam. Iskandar Thani was the prince of Sultan Ahmad Shah who had ruled over Pahang before but was disliked by the people.

Therefore, Aceh tried to reestablish its influence in Pahang. As a result, Sultan Abdul Jalil III from Johor attacked Pahang in 1638.

Iskandar Thani died in 1641. Johor reconciled with Pahang. Sultan Abdul Jalil III appointed his cousin Raja Bajau as the Yamtuan Muda of Pahang. With that, the influence of Aceh over Pahang ended.



Sepak takraw

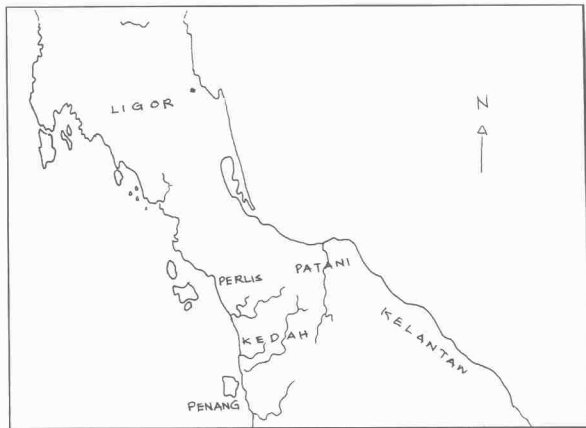
In 1629, a military pact was used to defeat Aceh. The pact was formed by Melaka, Johor and Patani. The power of Aceh started to decline when they were badly defeated.

Later, the Empire of Aceh split. Dominions of Aceh started to free themselves gradually. Aceh declined further after the death of Iskandar Muda Mahkota Alam in 1636. Aceh had lost a capable and courageous leader.

The death of Iskandar Muda Mahkota Alam caused Johor to proclaim itself free from the rule of Aceh. Johor made a treaty with the Dutch. The treaty was to protect Johor from the attacks of Aceh.

Pahang tried to free itself from Aceh. Pahang had help from Johor to attack Aceh. However, the attack by Pahang was quashed by Sultan Iskandar Thani.

Sultan Iskandar Thani was a weak ruler. Aceh



The map of Patani

lost control over its dominions.

Sultan Iskandar Thani was the last sultan to rule over Aceh. He died in 1641.

The death of Sultan Iskandar Thani left Aceh without a sultan. To overcome this problem, his four wives were appointed to rule over Aceh.

Their rule was weak. They were unable to restore the power of Aceh. The administration of Aceh was in a mess. The dominions of Aceh freed themselves one after another.

The state leaders and the religious leaders of Aceh started arguing with one another. The religious leaders were against the appointment of Puteri Sri Alam as the ruler.

They were of the opinion that this appointment was against the teachings of Islam. In Islam, women were not allowed to become high ranking leaders. This view of theirs split the unity of the people of Aceh.



The tin mine

THE MINANGKABAU

You must have known about the *Adat Temenggung* (Temenggung Custom). *Adat Temenggung* is the custom practised in all the states in Malaysia except Negeri Sembilan. Among the practices of the *Adat Temenggung* is the succession of inheritance from father to son. For the *Adat Perpatih*, a daughter will inherit from the mother. This is the custom still practised by the Minangkabaus in Negeri Sembilan.

The Minangkabaus originated from Sumatera. The Minangkabaus had lived in Negeri Sembilan since the reign of the Melaka Sultanate. When Melaka fell into the hands of the Portuguese, Negeri Sembilan was under the rule of Johor. Johor was founded by the son of Sultan Mahmud Syah, Sultan Alauddin Riayat Syah.

During the Portuguese occupation of Melaka (1511 – 1641), areas like Naning, Rembau and Sungai Ujong were already in existence. Raja Ibrahim was the ruler here.

Later, Raja Kasah from Pagar Ruyung, Sumatera arrived in Sungai Ujong. He was to replace Raja Ibrahim. However, the Minangkabau people did not welcome the arrival of Raja Kasah. He was considered under qualified to become the ruler. Raja Kasah had to return to Pagar Ruyung.

After that, Raja Khatib came to Rembau which was called the "Rembau of nine states". Raja Khatib also received the same kind of treatment as Raja Kasah, and he had to return to Pagar Ruyung.

Then came Raja Melewar who visited the Sultan of Johor. The Sultan of Johor gave full authority to Raja Melewar to rule in Seri Menanti. The Sultan of Johor appointed Raja Melewar as the Yamtuan Besar in 1773. Raja Melewar managed to develop the Minangkabau Custom. He was referred to as Raja Rembau. He then shifted to Seri Menanti.

During the reign of Raja Melewar, Seri Menanti and its surrounding areas became famous. Raja

Melewar managed to unite all the nine districts under his rule.

However, there were still headmen who continued to fight against one another. The main reason for the fights was control over the lucrative income from the tin trade.

Some Bugis leaders tried to take advantage of the situation. They intended to push aside Raja Melewar and appointed their own leader to sit on the throne. Their intention was quashed when their uprising was defeated by the army of Raja Melewar.

Raja Melewar died in 1795. Raja Hitam took over the leadership of Negeri Sembilan. The installation of Raja Hitam as the Yamtuan Besar was held in Rembau. He ruled for 15 years.

Syed Abdul Rahman who was the Datuk Kelana of Sungai Ujong had many enemies. He had to ask for help from the British to get rid of



Minangkabau traditional costume

his enemies. The first British Resident who was appointed in 1875 was Patrick J. Murray.

Datuk Kelana's action enraged other leaders of Negeri Sembilan. They did not want the British to interfere in the administration of their local affairs. Among these leaders was Tengku Antah.

As a result of this incident all the people of Sungai Ujong and the state dignitaries supported Tengku Antah. They started to side with the Seri Menanti administration. They agreed to appoint Tengku Antah as the Yamtuan of Seri Menanti.

The feud between Datuk Kelana and Tengku Antah persisted. Datuk Kelana accused Tengku Antah of infringing his ruling rights.

Datuk Kelana sought the help of the British. The British then attacked the territory of Tengku Antah.

The British attack did not weaken the strength of Tengku Antah. Tengku Antah collaborated



Map of Negeri Sembilan

with the people of Jelebu, Rembau and Tampin to fight against the British.

At the same time, Tengku Antah asked for the help of the Sultan of Johor to settle the dispute. The Sultan of Johor held negotiations with the Governor in Singapore, British Officials and other dignitaries.

As a result, the British agreed that Tengku Antah would remain as the Yamtuan of Seri Menanti. Tengku Antah was the first Yamtuan under the British rule. This took place in 1877. After 16 years of rule, in 1888, Yamtuan Antah died at Seri Menanti.

In 1889, Tengku Mohammad, the son of Tengku Antah signed a treaty with the Governor of the Straits Settlement. The agreement stated that all the "*luak*" (districts) would be united under Negeri Sembilan. The British would act as advisers for Negeri Sembilan.

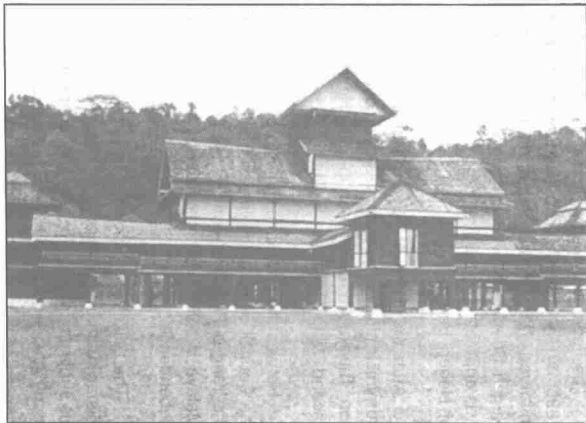


The Federated Malay States was formed in 1895 by the British. Those states that were involved were Perak, Selangor, Pahang and Negeri Sembilan. In 1898, Tengku Mohammad was appointed as the first Yang Dipertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan.

After the death of Tengku Mohammad, the administration of the state was taken over by his son, Tuanku Abdul Rahman in 1933. He was the second Yang Dipertuan Besar.

He was the first State Ruler to be elected by the Council of Malay Rulers to hold the post of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of the Federation of Malaya in 1957 when the country achieved independence.

The third Yang Dipertuan Besar was Tuanku Jaafar. Tuanku Jaafar was a ruler who cared about his subjects. His Highness frequently travelled to many places to get to know his subjects.



Seri Menanti Palace

In short, the arrival of the ancestors of the Minangkabaus was not in a big group. The movements were done in small groups over a long period of time.

The Minangkabaus were spread out over Naning, Melaka and Negeri Sembilan. Negeri Sembilan was formed by the combination of nine districts which came under a single administration system. These districts consisted of Sungai Ujong, Ulu Muar, Inas or Gunung Pasir, Jelebu, Jempol, Gemenceh, Rembau and Seri Menanti.

Now, the division of the districts is only seven which are Seremban, Port Dickson, Rembau, Tampin, Kuala Pilah, Jempol and Jelebu.

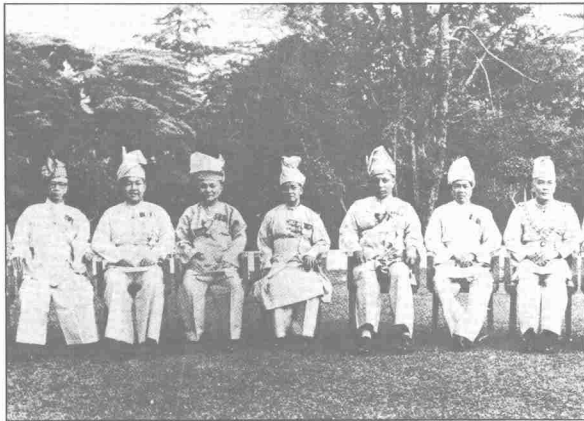
The Adat Perpatih which was inherited from the Minangkabau people is still being practised in these districts. The Adat Perpatih system was adapted to suit the local customs. As a result, the Malay community of Negeri



Yang di-Pertuan Agong I

Sembilan has its own way of life.

The Adat Perpatih has influenced the political and social system of Negeri Sembilan. If other states have sultans, Negeri Sembilan has the Yang Dipertuan Besar. The Yang Dipertuan Besar is appointed by the four Undang or Head of District. They are the Undang of Sungai Ujong, Rembau, Johol and Jelebu.



The Malay Sultans (1957)

