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THE BUGIS



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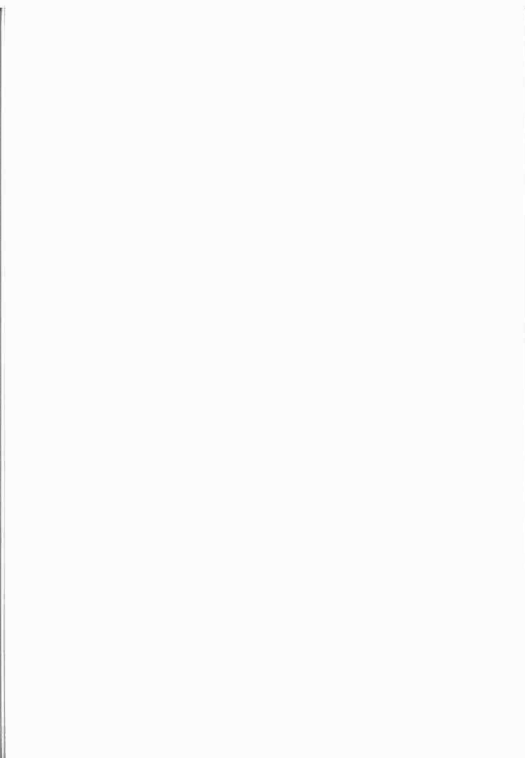
PREFACE

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.



THE BUGIS

Do you know where the Sulawesi Island is located? The Sulawesi Island is the biggest island in the Banda Sea. This is where the Bugis originated. They lived in the southern part of this island. Most of the Bugis were expert navigators, skillful traders and brave warriors.

The port of the Bugis was Makasar. This port was located at the southern part of Sulawesi. Makasar was located at the trade gateway between the Jawa Island and the Maluku Islands or the Archipelago of Spices. Makasar was also located

near Banjarmasin in Borneo. It was the centre of black pepper production.

The Bugis at the Makasar port did business. Many traders from the West traded here. These traders consisted of the British, the Dutch and the Portuguese. Many traders flocked to Makasar because it was a free port.

At that time, the Dutch had a base in Betawi of the Jawa Island. They were jealous of the Makasar Port which was progressing rapidly. At this port, the European traders sold their goods to the Bugis. The Bugis on the other hand smuggled spices from the Archipelago of Spices. They sold the spices to other European traders.

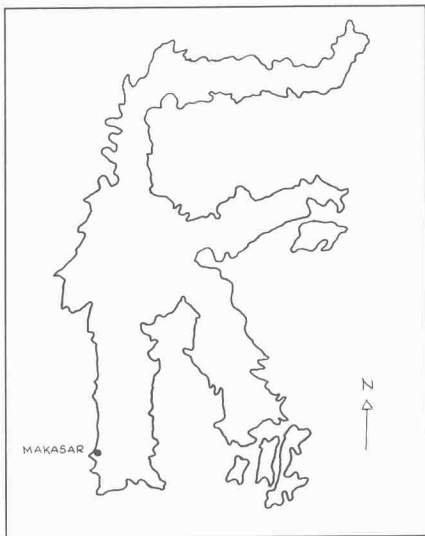
The Dutch did not want the Bugis leaders to trade with the people of the Archipelago of Spices. They wanted to monopolize the spice trade. The Dutch felt threatened by the rapid growth of the Makasar Port.

The Dutch failed to obstruct the Bugis leaders from trading with the people of the Archipelago of Spices. Therefore, they decided to capture Makasar.

In 1667, the Dutch attacked Makasar. The Bugis were defeated. The ruler of the Bugis, Sultan Hasanuddin, had to sign a treaty with the Dutch. The treaty was called the Bongaya Treaty. Since then, the Bugis could not live in freedom anymore. They lived miserably under the Dutch rule.

Many Bugis left their homeland. They wanted to live as freely as the other races. They became traders on deserted small Islands and mercenary soldiers. There were also those who became pirates. They located the Dutch merchant vessels. The Dutch became very angry with the Bugis.

A group of famous Bugis were the Daeng Rilaka family. Daeng Rilaka was a Bugis Raja. He had five children: Daeng Perani, Daeng Merewah, Daeng Menambun, Daeng Chelak and Daeng Kemasi.



Sulawesi

The Daeng Rilaka family left the palace after a civil war. They were determined to leave their homeland. They wanted to look for other safer places.

Daeng Rilaka and his children tried to start a new life. With a Bugis boat, they travelled over the ocean to look for a new place. They sailed with courage. In the end, they arrived in Malaya.

Other groups of Bugis also left their homeland. They went to Brunei, Jawa, Sumatera and other places.

The Daeng Rilaka family started a settlement at the estuary of Sungai Klang and Sungai Selangor. The locals did not oppose the arrival of the Bugis. They found that the Bugis were warriors who were good with their weapons. Therefore, the Bugis were able to run their business freely.

Not long after that, the Bugis influence started to show. They started to interfere in the



Kuala Selangor



The Bugis army costume

administration matters of the Malay states. The interference of the Bugis started in Johor.

Do you know who was the last Sultan of Johor from the descendant of the Melaka Sultanate? He was Sultan Mahmud. He was very cruel. He was killed by Megat Sri Rama while on his way to the mosque. He was known as "Sultan Mahmud who died on the sedan". Megat Sri Rama was a warrior of Sultan Mahmud.

Sultan Mahmud did not have an heir to succeed him. Bendahara Abdul Jalil ascended the throne in 1700 with the title Sultan Abdul Jalil. He chose Riau as his administration centre. Riau once again became a famous trade centre.

Sultan Abdul Jalil handed over the administration of Johor to his younger brother who was the Regent. The Regent was a weak ruler. This created dissatisfaction among the *Orang Laut*. The *Orang Laut* were the natives of Johor. Furthermore,

the *Orang Laut* did not like the descendants of the Bendahara who ruled Johor.

Raja Kecil from Siak, Sumatera came to meet Daeng Perani in Selangor. He wanted to ask for help from the Bugis. He wanted to claim the throne of Johor from Sultan Abdul Jalil. Raja Kecil promised to appoint a Bugis as the Yamtuan Muda if they managed to occupy Johor.

Raja Kecil claimed to be the son of Sultan Mahmud who was the last sultan descended from the Sultan of Melaka.

Raja Kecil attacked and captured Johor without the help of the Bugis. Raja Kecil instructed his chief warrior to kill Sultan Abdul Jalil. Daeng Perani was angry because Raja Kecil had broken his promise.

Daeng Perani teamed up with Raja Sulaiman, the son of the Bendahara to Sultan Abdul Jalil, to attack Raja Kecil. Daeng Perani managed to defeat Raja Kecil in 1772.



The map of Riau

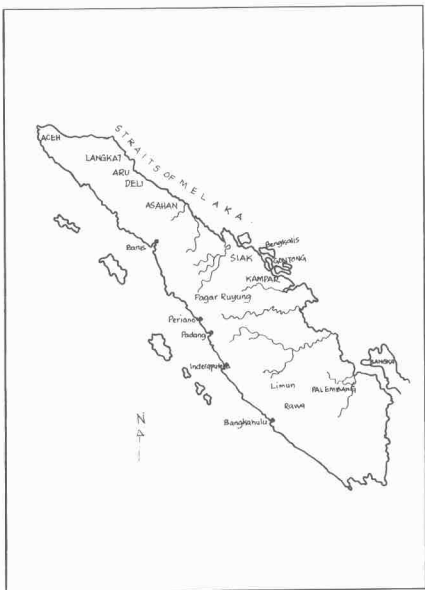
Raja Kecil was dethroned and banished to Siak.

Daeng Merewah was appointed the Yamtuan Muda of Johor. Many important positions were handed over to the Bugis. In the meantime, Tengku Sulaiman was installed as the Sultan of Johor.

However, Sultan Sulaiman was only a puppet ruler. All ruling powers were handed over to Daeng Merewah. With that, the Bugis influence started in Johor.

The influence of the Bugis in Johor became stronger when they married the members of the Johor royalty. Therefore, Johor became an important centre of the Bugis influence in Malaya.

Later, the Bugis expanded their influence over Kedah. The Bugis interference in Kedah started following the civil war between two princes of the Kedah Sultan. They were fighting over the throne of Kedah.



Sumatera

In this civil war, the eldest prince sought the help of the Bugis. Daeng Perani agreed because the eldest prince had promised to pay 15 *bahara* (1800 kilogrammes) of tin if he won.

The other prince sought the help of Raja Kecil from Siak who was once banished from Johor. The civil war lasted for two years from 1724 to 1726. Daeng Perani was killed in the battle.

The result of the war was the eldest prince with the help from the Bugis won. The dispute of the tussle over the Kedah throne was settled. The eldest prince was installed as the Sultan of Kedah.

As had been promised, the Bugis demanded 15 *bahara* of tin from the Kedah Sultan. The Sultan of Kedah failed to keep his promise. He only paid three *bahara*.

His failure in keeping his promise enraged the Bugis. They reacted by controlling the rule of Kedah. Therefore, Kedah was placed under the rule of the



Johor – The Bugis influence began in Malay states

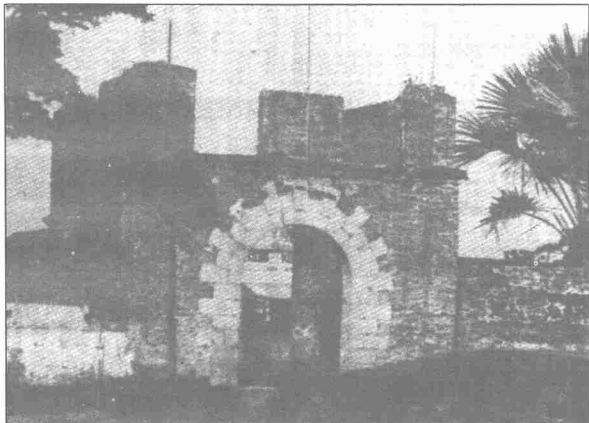
Bugis. The territory of the Bugis had increased in size.

The efforts of the Bugis to occupy other Malay states were carried out. They managed to interfere in Perak. After suffering heavy losses in the Kedah civil war, Raja Kecil and his followers retreated to Perak.

Raja Kecil started the Minangkabau influence there. They were given high positions in the Perak government. This created dissatisfaction among the Bugis. They were only waiting for the right time to interfere in Perak.

In 1728, a civil war erupted in Perak between the Sultan of Perak and his younger brother, Muzaffar Syah. This provided an opportunity for the Bugis to crush the Minangkabau power in Perak.

The Bugis offered their assistance to Muzaffar Syah. Under the leadership of Daeng Merewah, they managed to attack Perak and defeated the



Fortress in Kuala Kedah



Minangkabau Influence

Sultan of Perak. Muzzafar Syah was installed as the Sultan of Perak. Since then the Bugis influence set foot in Perak.

In 1728, Daeng Merewah passed away. He was succeeded by his brother Daeng Chelak. In 1742, Daeng Chelak attacked Perak with the intention of wiping out the Minangkabau influence that was still alive in Perak. The Minangkabaus were led by the son of Raja Kecil and a Bugis rebel called Daeng Matekko.

However, Daeng Chelak was able to cast out the son of Raja Kecil and Daeng Matekko from Perak. In the end, the Bugis had full control over Perak. The tin trade in Perak was then monopolized by the Bugis.

The Bugis also managed to interfere in the affairs of Selangor and expanded their influence there. As we know, the earliest settlement of the Bugis in Malaya was at the estuary of Sungai Klang and Sungai Selangor. The Bugis also set up

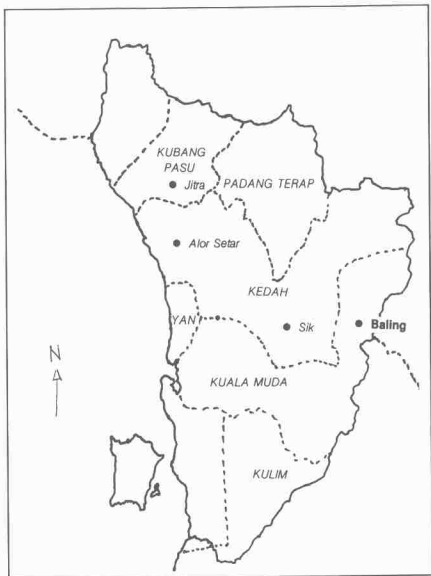
a settlement at Linggi, Negeri Sembilan. They were able to confine the Minangkabau influence there.

In 1742, the son of Raja Kecil and Daeng Matekko attacked Selangor. Daeng Chelak and Sultan Sulaiman from Johor counter attacked. They managed to push out the son of Raja Kecil and Daeng Matekko of Selangor.

In 1742, Daeng Chelak appointed his son, Raja Lumu, as the ruler of Selangor. In 1766, Raja Lumu was installed as Sultan Salahuddin Syah. This led to the setting up of a Selangor sultanate which originated from the Bugis. The Bugis also controlled the economy, social and politics of Selangor.

While they were in Malaya, the Bugis did not have a cordial relationship with the Dutch. Both the Bugis and the Dutch had their own goals: to take control of the tin trade in the Malay states.

The rising of the Bugis in Malaya made the



The map of Kedah

Dutch worried. They were scared that the Bugis would threaten their monopoly over the tin trade.

The Dutch took steps to strengthen themselves. In 1745, the Dutch signed a treaty with Johor. According to the treaty, Sultan Sulaiman agreed to hand over Siak to the Dutch in exchange for Dutch help in casting out the Bugis from Riau. The Dutch did not take any action against the Bugis. They were afraid of the Bugis.

The Bugis empire started to dwindle after the death of Daeng Chelak. Daeng Chelak was succeeded by his son Daeng Kemboja. The Bugis' activities in other Malay states had caused them to ignore Johor.

In 1755, the Dutch signed another treaty with Johor. According to this treaty, the Dutch would help Johor to regain its colonies lost to the Bugis.

In return, the Dutch would be given the monopoly over the tin ore trade. The pact enraged



The first Bugis settlement in Kuala Lumpur

THE ORIGIN OF SELANGOR SULTANATE

Upu Tenribong Daeng Rilaka (A Bugis King)



The origin of Selangor Sultanate

the Bugis. The relationship between the Bugis and the Dutch was further strained.

In 1756, the Bugis attacked the Dutch in Melaka. The Dutch on the other hand, attacked the Bugis in Linggi. The Bugis were defeated and Linggi fell into the hands of the Dutch. The defeat in Linggi further weakened the Bugis.

In the end, a peace accord was signed in 1758 between the Bugis and the Dutch. Peace was experienced until 1777. After that, war erupted again between the Bugis and the Dutch.

In 1777, Raja Haji replaced Daeng Kemboja as the Yamtuan Muda of Johor. He was a famous Bugis warrior. He practised the policy of friendship with the Dutch. However, in 1782, dispute arose again between the Dutch and the Bugis.

The dispute arose out of the division over the loot obtained from a British East India Company's ship called the *Betsy*. Raja Haji had demanded a

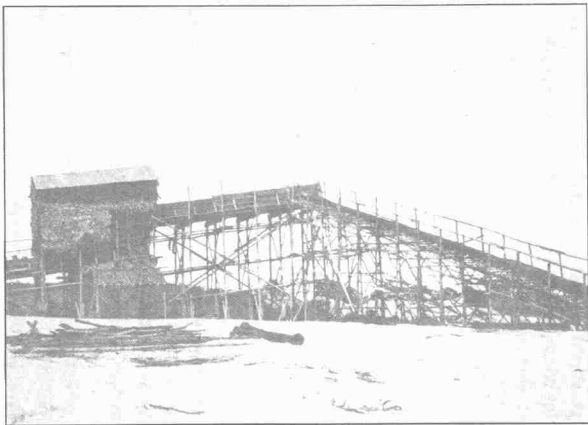
portion of the loot as the ship was captured within the coastal territory of Riau. The Dutch had refused to entertain Raja Haji's demand.

The dispute between the Bugis and the Dutch worsened. Raja Haji started to attack Dutch merchant vessels and trade bases.

The Dutch reacted. In 1782, they attacked Riau. They failed to defeat the Bugis. Their warship, called the *Malakka's Welvaren*, exploded and sunk. The Dutch had to return to Melaka.

Later, all the Bugis came together. The Bugis from Selangor teamed up with the Bugis from Rembau and attacked the Dutch in 1874. Raja Haji joined Raja Ibrahim from Selangor. Raja Haji had his base in Tanjung Palas, Teluk Ketapang, approximately 10 kilometres from Melaka.

Raja Haji's army surrounded Melaka for four months. The Dutch had help from Betawi and Java. The battles were fierce. Raja Haji was killed.



Tin – The cause of the Bugis – Dutch conflict



The Stadthuys in Melaka

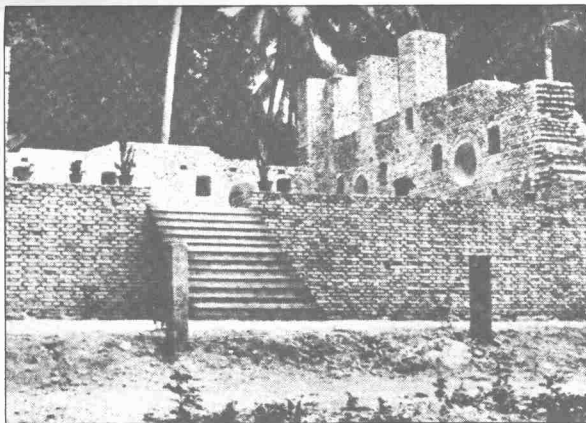
The commanders of Raja Haji's army Arong Lenga, Daeng Selikang and Raja Ahmad were also killed.

The defeat made the Bugis weak. On the other hand, the Dutch became braver. They attacked Selangor. The Sultan of Selangor escaped to Pahang. However, the Sultan of Pahang helped the Selangor people to regain Selangor.

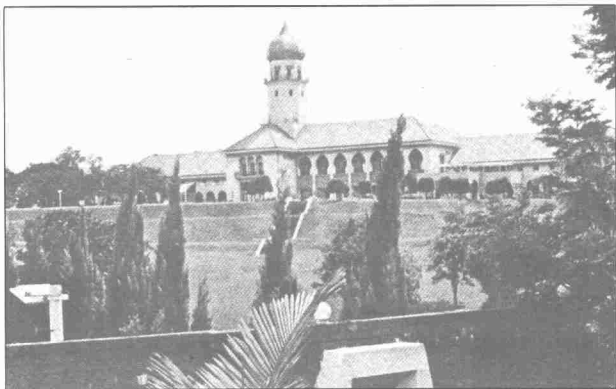
The Dutch chased away the Bugis from Riau, Johor. They forced Sultan Mahmud Syah to accept a Dutch Resident in Riau.

The death of Raja Haji and the defeat of the Bugis marked the beginning of the end for the Bugis in Malaya. However, the Bugis had played an important role in the shaping of the history of Malaya.

The Bugis managed to established a sultanate in Selangor. The sultanate of Selangor remain until today. Malays of Bugis origin can be found today in Selangor and Johor.



The Dutch Fortress in Pangkor



Sultan Selangor's Palace

APPENDIX



Lighthouse in Kuala Selangor



Royal Cemetery Kota Melawati, Kuala Selangor



APPENDIX

The Town Palace in Jugra

