

## Recent Books from Malaysia – Nov 2018

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### **Economics**

In Trust : A History of PNB / Nicholas J. White  
Petaling Jaya, Selangor: MPH Group Publishing Sdn Bhd (for PNB Research Institute Sdn Bhd), 2018

xxxviii, 794p,

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9674154965 ; 9789674154967

1. Permodalan Nasional Berhad
2. Mutual funds – Malaysia
3. Investments - Malaysia

\$ 75.00/ HB

2580gm.

This is the first full-length study of Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB; Malaysia's National Equity Corporation), marking the institution's 40th anniversary. A government-linked corporation, PNB is a unique 'hybrid' being both investment company and fund manager. The Corporation was formed with a specific mandate to raise income and savings levels through spreading corporate ownership more evenly throughout the Malaysian economy, particularly amongst the lower income indigenous Bumiputera communities. PNB runs what is reckoned to be the world's largest unit trust scheme, and manages investments which make up at least 10 per cent of Kuala Lumpur's Stock Exchange. This book charts PNB's fascinating history through its origins in the New Economic Policy; the growth and management of its vast investment portfolio; the evolution of its highly successful unit trust schemes encompassing millions of small-scale investors; the international reach of the Corporation's operations; and, PNB's contribution to the development of Malaysian Human Resources (as well as the role played by its own employees in forging this dynamic organisation). In so doing, the book explores global issues of decolonisation and nation-building in a multi-racial society; post-colonial economic development; corporate social responsibility; and, state-led capitalism. The study will appeal to a wide audience

within and beyond Malaysia as an alternative model of economic development that could be emulated in other parts of the world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=456881>

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### **Official Publications**

Economic Outlook 2019 [Malaysia]

Putrajaya: Fiscal and Economics Division, 2019

1v.

ISSN: 2637-0239 ; 9772637023004

\$ 70.00 / PB

540gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=456883>

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## **Performing Arts**

BORIA : From Pasion Play to Malay-Jawi Peranakan Parody / Wazir Jahan Karim  
Petaling Jaya, Selangor: Pelanduk Publications (M) Sdn Bhd (MPH Group  
Publishing Sdn Bhd), 2018

xliv, 300p.

Includes Index

9789674940034

1. Boria
2. Folk Music – Malaysia
3. Folk songs, Malay - Malaysia

\$ 35.00 / PB

648gm.

With a history dating several thousand years, from the *ta'ziyeh* Persian passion play to Indian and Malayan street celebrations during the month of Muharram, the boria in Penang has survived critics' trials to become a vibrant Malay-Jawi Peranakan parody theatre – a modern-day vaudeville, combining skits, dance, music and song, to reflect on the vices and virtues of urban Muslim society. Its narrative, lyrics, choreography and costumes express comic representations of colonial and postcolonial life while fostering unity among urban Muslim communities, caught at the crossroads between tradition and modernity. Secular in its symbolic representations but spiritual in essence, it is the only known surviving Malay-Jawi Peranakan parody theatre in Malaysia.

This book provides fascinating insights into this unique self-critical representation of political culture and its survival strategies over centuries of debate, if indeed Muslims should be engaged in a song and dance over conflicts in faith, culture and tradition. The writer presents the boria through centuries of change and transformation in its built environment in the World Heritage City of George Town and makes an appeal for the boria to be part of the built heritage of George Town and promoted as a state heritage theatre in its natural cultural landscape: the ashurkhana, the birthplace of the boria, as well as historic streets, urban villages and parks. She also embarks on the concept of an innovative café theatre built environment where the boria theatre can be returned to the streets and be “tasted” as “art food”: aromatic, participatory and egalitarian, titillating and appealing to all senses and sensibilities.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421997>

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## **Politics**

Democratic Transitions in the Muslim World / (Eds) Ali Salman, Mohammad Hashim Kamali & Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil

Petaling Jaya, Selangor: Pelanduk Publications (M) Sdn Bhd (MPH Group Publishing Sdn Bhd), 2018

x, 306p.

Includes Index

9789674940058

1. Islam and politics
2. Islamic countries – Social conditions
3. Islamic countries – Politics and government

\$ 60.00 / HB

624gm

How far have Muslim narrative on democracy evolved, and how does the interpretation of Islam affects them? What are the historical and political experiences of Muslim countries, and how do they inform us of these countries' future trajectories? What are the current track records of Islamist, and how well do they navigate through a competitive political landscape and complex statecraft? In this book, Muslim scholars from diverse background and expertise explore and help answer these critical questions.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421996>

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## **Literature**

Lelaki Dari Sungai = Men from the River / Basari Mat Yasit

Kuala Lumpur: Oyez (Integra Creative Media Sdn Bhd), 2018

1v.

English & Malay Text

9789670999708

\$ 12.00 / PB

122gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=417967>

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Beyond the Sea / P. Singaram; Translated by R Karthisegu

Penang: Areca Books Asia Sdn Bhd, 2019

184p.

9789675719349

\$ 20.00 / PB

334gm.

As a young man working in a Penang kittanggi, Chellaia fancies his boss's daughter. When his life as a moneylender is disrupted by the Japanese Occupation of Malaya, he, like many of his peers, joins the Indian National Army (INA). After the army disbands, Lieutenant Chellaia makes his way back to Penang and waits to see what the return of the British will bring. He and his fellow soldiers remain close friends, looking out for each other.

Chellaia is eager to rebuild his life but as the war has changed him, he finds it difficult to adjust to his old job. Worse still, he is no longer deemed a suitable match for the woman he had hoped to marry.

*"You have before you the one great Tamil novel of Penang."* – Sunil S. Amirth, Chair, Department of South Asian Studies, Harvard University

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=456888>

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