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# UHE3182 MALAYSIAN STUDIES

## Chapter 7 UNITY AND SOCIETY

by  
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# MALAYSIAN SOCIETY AND UNITY



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# COURSE OUTCOME

- Explain the characteristics of Malaysian society
- Discuss the government strategy to strengthen the unity
- Challenges in creating Malaysia as a multiracial society



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# Malaysian Society/community

- Malaysia has a population of about 25 million. It is a multi-racial country whose social integration has become a model for the rest of the world. Almost 80% of the total population occupy Peninsular Malaysia.
- There are three main races in the country. The Malays, who are Muslims, form the majority in the country. The other two main racial groups are the Chinese, who are mostly Buddhists and the Indians, who are mainly Hindus.



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- As a country of diverse races, cultures and religions, Malaysia is indeed unique in proving how its diversity could be united and harnessed for nation building.
- National Unity is very vital and is the key to Malaysia's success. Whether Malaysia will become a fully developed nation by the year 2020 will depend on a number of important factors, the most important being national unity.
- Unity should therefore be the basis of all programmes and activities for nation building. Malaysians should be more conscious of their role and contribution towards national unity which is paramount to the nation's growth and development.



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- Other groups that make up the population include the Eurasians and the more than 50 indigenous groups from Sabah and Sarawak like the Kadazans, Dusuns, Muruts, Ibans, Orang Ulu, Melanau, Bidayuhs, Penans, just to name a few. The different races have their own traditions and customs which gives Malaysia a colourful heritage. The important festivals of each race are a public holiday in the country (so there are a lot of public holidays here!) and celebrated by all regardless of race and religion.



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# POLITICAL INTEGRATION

- As one of the multi-ethnic countries, construction of nation state becomes the government's crucial agenda. After Malaysia achieved independence, the first endeavor towards integrity was uniting political parties, explicitly United Malay National Organization (UMNO), Malaysia Chinese Association (MCA) and Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC).
- Coalition parties
- Constitution
- Democracy system
- 1Malaysia by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak



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# SOCIAL INTEGRATION

- Dasar Pendidikan Kebangsaan (The National Education Policy )
- Bahasa Melayu as national language
- Islam is the official religion in Malaysia
- Malaysia Vision 2020 by Tun Dr Mahathir
- Dasar Kebudayaan Kebangsaan (The National Culture Policy)



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# ECONOMY INTEGRATION

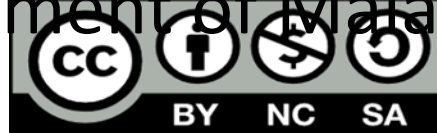
- New Economic Policy (NEP) 1972-1990
- FELDA, MARA, PRIVATIZATION POLICY
- National Development Policy
- Industrialization policy



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# RUKUNEGARA AS NATIONAL IDEOLOGY

- The Rukun Negara was formulated on 31st August 1970, on Malaysia's 13th National Day. The decision to formulate this national ideology was triggered by the racial clash that took place on 13th May 1969. Following the riots, the government imposed curfews and declared a state of emergency nationwide, invoking the 1948 Emergency Ordinance. Parliament was suspended and the National Operations Council (NOC) headed by the Deputy Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak Dato' Hussein, served as the temporary government of Malaysia.



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- During the emergency period, efforts were made to re-establish peace among the races and to prevent future clashes. A Department of National Unity and a National Consultative Council (NCC) were set up. The Department of National Unity, under the direction of the NOC, spent nearly a year drafting a national ideology meant to bond Malaysia's diverse population. This draft then was deliberated by the NCC which comprised of community leaders, businessmen, academicians, religious leaders, teachers, journalists and politicians from government and the Opposition. After discussions and amendments, the Rukun Negara was formally promulgated by Malaysia's Yang Di-Pertuan Agong on 31st August 1970.



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# Challenges

- Ethnocentrism
- Economic unbalance
- Political issues
- Corruption



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# Group Discussion

- Each group need to provide 3 example of question (multiple choice questions) based on the topic in this chapter.
- Suggest one new program /policy to strengthen the unity amongst races in Malaysia.



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# References

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