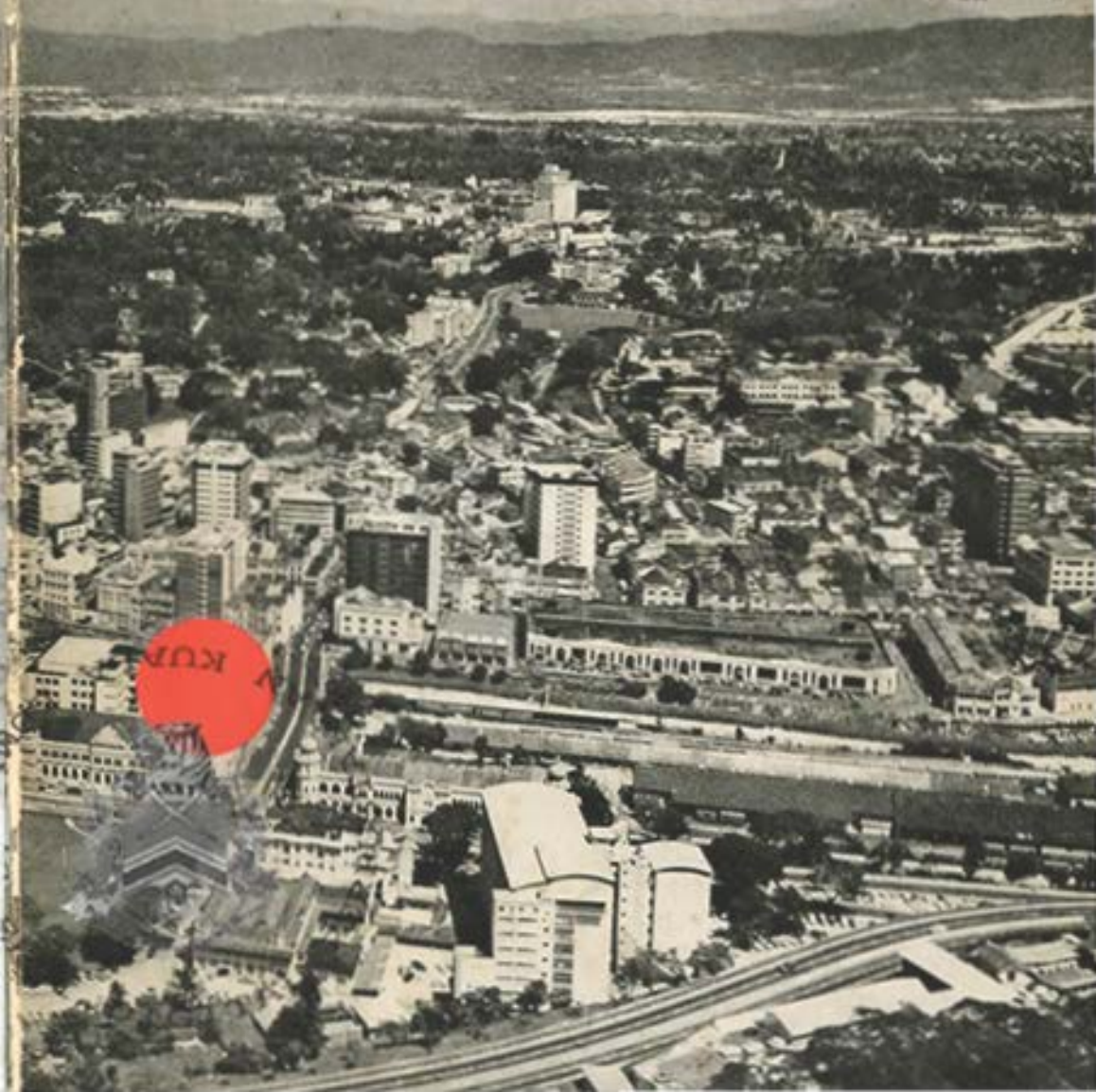


# KUALA LUMPUR AND ITS POPULATION

MAINTAINING THE

Perpustakaan

DEWAN BANDARAYA KUALA LUMPUR



# **Kuala Lumpur** and its **Population**



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## FOREWORD

Since its modest beginnings as a mining town, Kuala Lumpur has grown into a thriving national capital. There is no doubt that the momentum of development will continue to attract firms and industries to the city. By the end of this century, Kuala Lumpur will probably have achieved the present size of other Southeast Asian capitals. Such rapid growth, will of course, bring associated social and environmental problems.

Unlike its Southeast Asian counterparts, relatively little has been written about Kuala Lumpur. In order to understand and appreciate its current and future problems, there is need to document its past pattern of growth and development. The physical and infra-structural problems will continue to be a major topic of public debate and complaint, and will have to be faced squarely by the authorities concerned. The multi-ethnic character of this city will also continue to demand consideration in policy formulations. In this respect, Kuala Lumpur is definitely more complicated than the other cities in the region.

This book has tried to explain the growth and character of Kuala Lumpur's population. It has tried to account for the different structures of its multi-ethnic character; from being a dominantly Chinese mining town, it has now become more mixed, with the Malays and Indians forming nearly 50 per cent of its population. Although most optimists tend to describe the town as "cosmopolitan", in reality the different races remain physically or even culturally segregated as has been clearly pointed out by Dr. Sidhu. Essentially the author of this book looks at the problem of Kuala Lumpur's population as a geographer-cum-demographer.

Although this book is intended for the general reader, it also has academic merits and deserves the attention of city authorities and scholars alike. However, as Sidhu would be the first to admit, there