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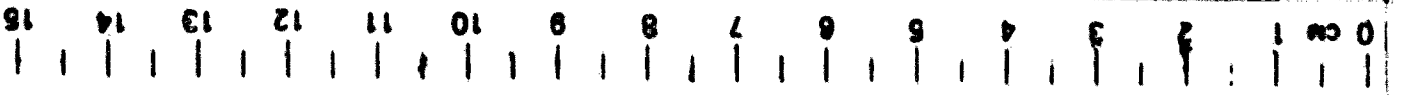
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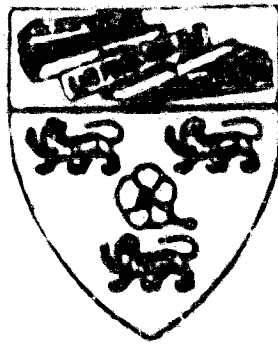
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THE POPULATION OF PENANG

by

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A Graduation Exercise presented to
the University of Malaya in
part fulfillment towards the
Degree of Bachelor of Arts
with Honours in Economics
(Statistics)

Division of Statistics
Faculty of Economics and Administration

1966/67

SYNOPSIS

Brunei is the richest state in Borneo, and the smallest. Its history can be traced back for several centuries, but economic progress became marked only subsequent to, and was a direct consequence of, the growth of the oilfield in her midst. Such development, however, is more than compensated by her diminutive size - 2,226 square miles - with the result that little research has been undertaken on the country and its people. This unfortunate paucity is matched by an equally small volume of statistics published in the country. Hence, the major sources of information for this exercise are census reports and registration data. Of the former, only the 1947 and 1960 Censuses are sufficiently comprehensive for analysis; of the latter, available annual reports date only from 1935. As such, the analysis outlined here can, at best, be superficial, though it must equally be admitted that general patterns are discernable.

One fact which must always be borne in mind is that the smallness of the numbers involved may cause some exaggeration or distortion in interpretation. This is particularly true where the residual group of people - "Others" - is concerned.

The population of Brunei is essentially cosmopolitan. Like the other states in Borneo, the Indigenous peoples - Malays and a multitude of indigenous races or tribes, some minute, some substantial, make up the largest proportion of the population. In conformity with the rest of Southeast Asia, Chinese constitute a minority, significant in numbers, but zero so in economic power. Others, mainly Indians and Europeans, form only a small minority.

A third factor which pervades the whole analysis is the importance of the oilfield as an influence upon the demographic structure of the population. Thus, the growth of the oilfield constitutes the single most important factor determining the direction and volume of migration, both internal and international, while the distortion of the sex-age structures are all consequences, albeit less direct, of the same phenomenon.

Despite the importance of the oilfield, the state is still basically agricultural. This is shown by an analysis of the population by industry and occupation.

This exercise attempts to describe and analyse, with the limited data available, the structure and characteristics of the population of Brunei. An outline of population distribution and structure is found in Chapters I and II. This is followed by a broad analysis of various characteristics - Migration (Chapter III) and Marital Status (Chapter IV). Births, Deaths and Natural Increase are in Chapter V. Finally, Chapter VI summarises the economic characteristics of the working population.

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INTRODUCTION

Brunei, an internally self-governing Islamic Sultanate under British protection, comprises an area of 2,225 square miles on the western coast of Borneo, between latitude $4^{\circ} 2'$ and $5^{\circ} 3'$ North, and longitude $114^{\circ} 4'$ and $115^{\circ} 2'$ East. It is an enclave surrounded by Sarawak territory except from the sea, and split into two parts by an intrusion of Sarawak territory formed by the basin of the Limbang River. Its borders are neither protected by mountains nor other natural barriers, as a consequence of which there is considerable movement of indigenous peoples across the border.

The climate is tropical, and is characterized by fairly uniform temperatures, high humidity and copious rainfall which ranges from 100 inches at the coast to more than 200 inches in the uplands. A slight seasonality is present, October to March, the Northeast Monsoon months, being the wet season, and the rest of the year being the "dry" months.

Culturally, the indigenous peoples have close ties with their neighbours. Subject to local variations, they speak the same language and practise the same customs. The boundaries of Brunei are neither geographical nor ethnic.

Historically, Brunei is today much smaller than it was a century ago. Anarchy and piracy resulted in the cession of Sarawak and Labuan, and this was followed in 1877 by the northern part of the Sultanate - which was to form the nucleus of British North Borneo. Since 1900, there has been no significant territorial change, Brunei having become the smallest State in Borneo. In the consideration of population growth, we can thus ignore territorial expansion as a factor.

CHAPTER I

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND GROWTH

Distribution

The population of Brunei as enumerated in the Census of 1960 was given as 83,677¹ and the latest estimate gave the figure 93,438 in 1963.² With an area of 2,226 square miles, these yield densities of 38 per square mile and 44 per square mile respectively.

Overall densities are, however, deceptive in the sense that they convey an impression of homogeneity of distribution over the whole state. This, in fact, is far from the truth. Densities by districts would have been more helpful. Brunei is divided, for census purposes, into five districts, viz., Belait, Tutong, Brunei Rural, Brunei Municipal and Temburong.

TABLE 1.1

TOTAL POPULATION BY CENSUS DISTRICT
AND DENSITY, 1960^(a)

District	Population	Area in Square Mile	Density per Square Mile	% of Total Population
Belait	31,703	1,059	30	37.8
Tutong	10,710	457	23	12.8
Brunei Rural	27,809	200	139	33.2
Brunei Municipal	9,702	4	2,156	11.6
Temburong	3,943	505	8	4.7
Total Brunei	83,677	2,226	38	100.0

(a) Slight discrepancies between the sum of individual figures in certain columns and the totals at the foot of the table are due to rounding.

¹This includes 82 transients (people not normally resident in Brunei, but who are on board an ocean going vessel in Brunei waters).

²State of Brunei, Annual Report, 1963 (Kuala Belait, Brunei Press, 1965) p. 19.