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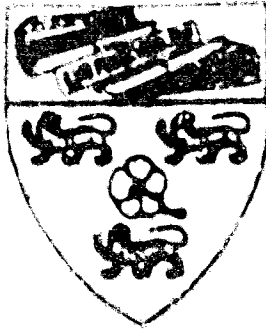
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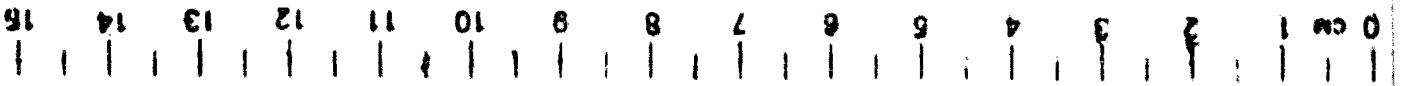




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POPULATION OF SABAH

by

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Graduation Exercise submitted as part
fulfillment towards the degree of Bachelor of Arts
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This report covers the growth of the population of Sabah. The final report covered the growth and distribution of the population. The period was covered as far as Sabah is concerned 1951 to 1960. Growth has been in a steady phenomenal, with the population figures increasing by around 100% since 1951 in a period of only 7 decades. It is especially the growth in the coastal areas, those on the west coast particularly show a more rapid rate of growth. Community growth also shows differential rates with the Districts indicating the fastest rate of increase. The analyses have increased at a moderate pace.

The distribution of the population follows the general pattern of the development of Sabah. Regions of greatest settlement and density occur mainly on the west coast portions and some east coast areas.

The distribution of the population by age indicates it to be a young one and present rates of growth emphasize this point. Children below 15 years of age make up over 40% of the population in 1960. An analysis by the main communities and by rural and urban distribution is considered. Finally an assessment of the Age distribution is made.

Chapter three looks into the Sex and Marital Status characteristics of the population. Sex-ratios point out that between the two main immigrant groups in Sabah, the Chinese have taken well to Sabah and show signs of becoming a permanently settled community. The other group, consisting mainly of Indonesians and Filipinos, is still immigrant in character. Marital status figures show that in 1960, around 37% of the population were single, around 37% were married and the rest either widowed or divorced.

The question of literacy and religion is taken up next. Analysis of the latest census data reveals that the Chinese are the most literate, the education of the Malays is still a long way to go, and finally the most common language of literacy is the Chinese language, followed by Malay and English.

Figures on religion indicate greater number people are tending to Christianity rather than Islam.

Data on the labour force is dealt with in the final chapter. Within the working age-group of 15-64 years, it is to be noted that 70% were economically active. In the age-group of 45 and over, almost 65% were recorded as active economically. A large proportion of the female sex were also enumerated as active. The greater part of the active population were recorded as Own Account and Family Workers. For the country as a whole, the variety of occupations was rather limited.

That, in brief, is the total coverage of the exercise.



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Introduction

British North Borneo, called Sabah by the natives, lies in the extreme north of the island of Borneo, situated about latitude 4° N and longitude 117° E. It is insular in nature but this insularity did not lead to any rapid growth of the population by migration as happened in other insular South-east Asian countries. Prior to the first population census, taken in 1891, accounts of the North Borneo population were rather vague. Since 1891, the taking of the census of the population decennially has increased this knowledge vastly, with the character of the census questionnaire growing more and more complex as defects were eliminated and improvements installed. There was a break in 1941 when the outbreak of the second world war prevented an enumeration. The last census was carried out on 10th August 1960 in conjunction with the censuses of Sarawak and Brunei, following a decision to carry out a combined operation by the three states involved.

The organization and administration of the 1960 census was quite a simple affair, since the territorial area of Sabah had not changed at all between 1951 (when the first census after the war was taken) and 1960. Census enumeration followed a division of the country into various census districts based upon the then existing administrative districts. The country was divided into a total of 22 census districts. A map of North Borneo is given on the following page showing the various census districts and showing further the density distribution of the population in 1960 and also the main urban centres.

This work is divided into 5 chapters, each of which deals with a different aspect of the population of Sabah. Though they have been treated in such a manner, it would be worthwhile not to forget that these various aspects are all inter-linked and inter-dependent, and none of them can be viewed properly in isolation. The first chapter deals with the growth of the population, from 1891 till the present time. The chapter concludes with some comments on the distribution of the population in 1960.

Next an analysis of age data is made. Where possible comparisons with early census data is carried out. The third aspect dealt with is sex and marital status data. These two are reviewed in one chapter because of the close connection between sex data and data on marital status. Following this, chapter four investigates the conditions of literacy in North Borneo. For an under-developed country, questions dealing with literacy are important in the sense they help to evaluate the extent of the existence of educated labour (and hence skilled labour) which directly influences the productivity of the nation. The distribution of the population by the various

religions is also looked into in this chapter. The last chapter deals with labour force statistics. No discussion on population would be complete if the labour force aspect is not looked into

The map of Sabah is given on the following page: below is the index to the map:

<u>No.</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>District</u>
1	" Labuan	11	" Tuaran
2	" Kuala Penyu	12	" Kota Belud
3	" Beaufort	13	" Kudat
4	" Sipitang	14	" Labuk
5	" Tenom	15	" Sandakan (Town & Rural)
6	" Keningau	16	" Kinabatangan
7	" Tambunan	17	" Lahad Datu
8	" Ranau	18	" Seporza
9	" Papar	19	" Tawau
10	" Jesselton (Town and Rural)	20	" Pensiangan