

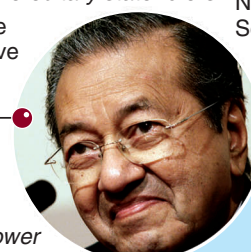
Malaysia's 50 years of nationhood



LEADERSHIP
Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin: Former ruler of Terengganu state, became Malaysia's 13th king in 2006. Role of king is largely ceremonial and rotates every five years between each of nine hereditary state rulers

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi: Prime Minister wants Malaysia to achieve developed nation status by 2020

Badawi succeeded Mahathir Mohamad in 2003, when Asia's longest-serving elected leader – credited with transforming Malaysia into an Asian economic tiger – retired after 22 years in power

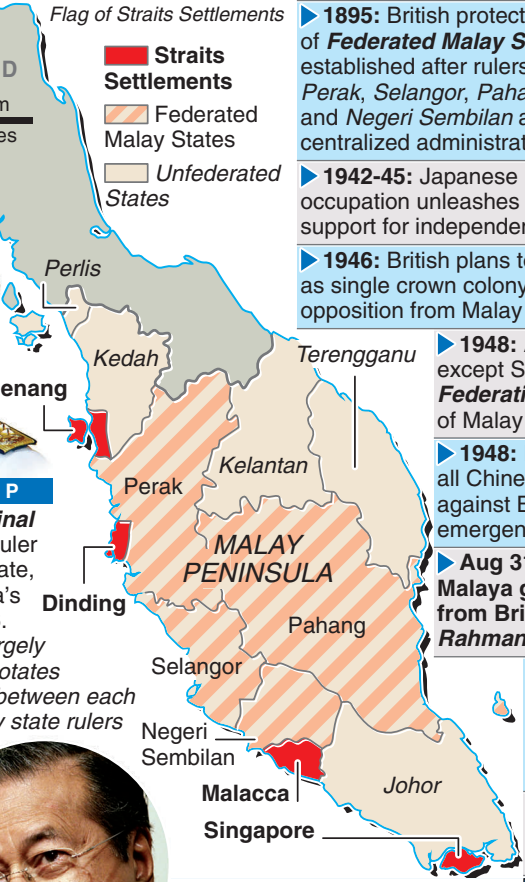


In 1957, the Federation of Malaya – renamed Malaysia in 1963 – gained independence (merdeka) from Britain. Fifty years on, this multi-ethnic, multi-religious country boasts one of SE Asia's most vibrant economies, the consequence of decades of industrial growth and political stability



Flag of Straits Settlements

- Straits Settlements
- Federated Malay States
- Unfederated States

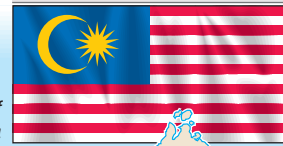


THE MAKING OF MALAYSIA

- ▶ **1826:** British settlements of **Penang, Dinding, Malacca, and Singapore** unite to form **Colony of Straits Settlements** from where British extend influence over Malay sultanates
- ▶ **1895:** British protectorate of **Federated Malay States** established after rulers of **Perak, Selangor, Pahang and Negeri Sembilan** agree centralized administration
- ▶ **1942-45:** Japanese occupation unleashes popular support for independence
- ▶ **1946:** British plans to unite whole of Malaya as single crown colony collapse due to opposition from Malay nationalists
- ▶ **1948:** All British-ruled territories except Singapore unified under **Federation of Malaya**. Autonomy of Malay rulers restored
- ▶ **1948:** Local communists, nearly all Chinese, launch armed struggle against British rule – state of emergency declared
- ▶ **Aug 31, 1957:** Federation of Malaya granted independence from Britain with **Tunku Abdul Rahman** as first prime minister
- ▶ **1963:** British colonies of **Sabah, Sarawak** and Singapore join Federation, which is renamed **Federation of Malaysia**
- ▶ **1965:** Singapore splits from Malaysia to become independent republic



Coat of arms of Federated Malay States



Flag of Malaysia

MALAYSIA KEY STATISTICS

- Population:** 25.3 million (2005)
- Ethnic groups:** Malays (60%), Chinese (26%), Indian (8%), others (10%)
- Main religions:** Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, Christianity, Sikhism
- Life expectancy:** Men, 71; Women, 75
- GNI per capita:** \$4,970

