

Unit 1.1: British Colonisation of Malaya

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

Year	Events
1824	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anglo-Dutch Treaty was signed. Led to the <u>creation of Dutch and British spheres of influence in SEA</u>
1826	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• British Straits Settlements was formed: Melaka, Penang and Singapore
1861	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Larut War. Resulted due to <u>arguments over control of watercourse to mines</u> between the Ghee Hins and the Hai Sans.
1865	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• June: Second Larut War
1867	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April: The Straits Settlement <u>became a Crown Colony</u>
1871	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second Anglo-Dutch Treaty signed• Third Larut War. Resulted <u>between the Ghee Hins and Hai Sans</u> regarding the <u>succession disputes for the Sultan of Perak</u> between Raja Abdullah and Raja Ismail
1874	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pangkor Treaty signed<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ <u>First British Resident, James Birch</u>, appointed in Malaya (Perak)◦ Residential System introduced
1875	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First British Resident Birch killed• Perak War begins• British Resident appointed in Selangor
1877	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hugh Low appointed as the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>fourth Resident in Perak</u> • State Council formed
1885	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johor and Britain signed a <u>treaty of equality and alliance</u>
1888	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February: British subject murdered in Pekan near sultan's palace. British intervene. • British Resident appointed in Pahang
1889	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Resident appointed in Negeri Sembilan
1896	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Federated Malay States (FMS) formed under the federal government • Frank Swettenham becomes the <u>First Resident General</u> • FMS becomes <u>world's largest tin producer by 1898</u>
1904	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Resident appointed in Johor
1909	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangkok Treaty signed [also known as the Anglo-Siamese Treaty of 1909] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ All of Siam's rights in Perlis, Kelantan and Terengganu <u>transferred to the British</u> • Unfederated Malay States (UFMS) formed
1910	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelantan accepted a British advisor
1919	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terengganu accepted a British Advisor
1923	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kedah accepted a British Advisor
1930	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perlis accepted a British Advisor • British <u>colonisation</u> of Malaya <u>completed</u>.

Reasons for British Intervention in Malaya

Political Factors

<u>Point</u>	<u>Example(s)</u>	<u>Reason</u>
To expand the British Empire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A federated Germany was created after the <u>Franco-Prussian war of 1870</u>. France particularly suffered significant losses and <u>sought to regain its prestige through imperialism</u>. Germany was also <u>determined to colonise any uncolonised areas</u> as part of the race for colonies. <u>Anglo-Dutch rivalry intensified</u> in the region as the Dutch had long established a foothold in Indonesia and <u>grew fiercer in the race for colonies</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany became a powerful state that changed the <u>balance of power</u> in Europe. The French and the Dutch's <u>imperialistic ambitions</u> further threatened the <u>power and standing</u> of Britain. Thus, in response to these changes, the British wanted to <u>maintain their edge over the other European powers</u> by <i>[ATQ: expanding their overseas kingdom]</i>

Economic Factors

<u>Point</u>	<u>Example(s)</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Need For Raw Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malaya had <u>rich deposits of tin and fertile land</u> that facilitated the <u>cultivation of rubber</u>. Tin was in high demand as the <u>canning industry was becoming very profitable in Europe</u>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> However, <u>British tin was becoming too costly to produce</u>. Tin deposits were <u>discovered in Perak, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang and Selangor</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Technological advancements during the Industrial Revolution</u> fuelled the creation of <u>new industries and the production of more goods</u>, which led to a demand for <u>more raw materials</u>. The discovery of rich tin deposits in Malaya provided the British with <u>opportunities for</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rubber was <u>introduced into the Malay Peninsula</u> in 1877 and the <u>first rubber plantations were established</u> in Malaya in 1896. ● <u>Worldwide demand for rubber rose</u> when the <u>automobile industry began to grow</u>. ● Malaya became a <u>major global rubber producer</u>. 	<p><u>greater profits</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Furthermore, with the <u>rising demand for rubber</u>, Malaya's rubber industry <u>grew rapidly</u>. ● Hence, the British decided to extend control over Malaya to ensure a <u>steady supply of tin</u> and to <u>manage the growing rubber industry</u> for their <u>economic advantage</u>.
Need For New Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Since British factories could <u>mass-produce goods</u> then, they needed <u>new markets to sell the goods</u> manufactured. ● It was also <u>rumoured in 1873</u> that <u>Germany was negotiating for bases in Pulau Langkawi and Northern Malaya</u> to serve as <u>trading ports</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The British <u>had to intervene in the rest of the Malay states</u> to ensure that they had <u>access to the markets before the other Europeans obtained a foothold there</u>.
Need For New Bases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The <u>opening of the Suez Canal in 1869</u> increased the volume of trade in Southeast Asia as sailing from Britain to Malay now <u>took only 6 weeks instead of the initial 4 months</u>. ● The Straits of Melaka became the <u>shortest route to travel from Europe to Asia</u>. ● This <u>increased the plying of pirates in the Straits</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The British needed to establish new bases to <u>serve as outposts for British ships</u> which <u>patrolled the waterways to combat piracy</u>, as the <u>existing bases in the Straits Settlement were no longer adequate to fend off these pirates</u>.
Need For Social Stability for Economic Development and the Desire of merchants, businessmen and local officials for British	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Large numbers of <u>Chinese immigrants were recruited to work in the tin mines</u> discovered in Perak and Selangor. ● There were <u>no proper land surveys to demarcate the various tin mines</u>, which resulted in <u>conflicts between the Chinese miners</u> over control of tin mines and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Larut Wars and succession disputes in Perak <u>hastened the intervention of the British</u> as the <u>Straits officials and the Chinese and British merchants petitioned the British government</u> for intervention <u>out of concern for their</u>

<p>intervention</p>	<p>watercourses, particularly between the <u>Ghee Hins and the Hai Sans</u> in the Larut District of North Perak.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3 wars occurred, known as the Larut Wars. ● In 1865, <u>1000 Ghee Hins</u> from Larut <u>fled to Penang</u> after an attack by the Hai Sans. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Succession disputes</u> also led to frequent conflicts that disrupted trade. ● The sons of rival wives of the deceased sultan <u>competed for the right to the throne</u>. ● In Perak, when <u>Sultan Ali dies</u> in 1871, three claimants, Raja Abdullah, Raja Ismail and Raja Yusuf, fought to take the vacant throne, which <u>intensified the disorder that already existed due to the wars between the secret societies in Perak</u> and drove the state into chaos. 	<p><u>investments in tin.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They <u>wanted the British to impose law and order</u> in the Malay states <u>so that business could be carried out in a stable and safe environment.</u>
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The Response of The Locals to British Colonial Rule

<u>Group of People</u>	<u>Their Response</u>
<p>Malay Chiefs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● From FMS: chose to cooperate with the British as the British Residents after Birch dissimulated preserving the sultans' power and tactfully formulated and implemented policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The sultans' power was greatly reduced but their positions became more secure as they were backed by British power against rivals. ○ They also enjoyed

	<p>elaborate palaces and regular incomes from the British.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members of the Malay aristocracy were also able to receive Western education and minor positions in the colonial administration. ○ Their positions in the civil administration ensured that they did not completely lose their authority or means of wealth as their positions became more secure. ● From UMFS: refused to join the federation, knowing that they would lose their power if they did.
Indigenous Malays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Did not resist the implementation of the Residential System as they had minimal interactions with the British at the village level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ruled by the village headmen and Malay Chiefs
Chinese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Willing to cooperate with the British to maintain peace as that meant a more secure livelihood ● Prominent and wealthy Chinese formed close relationships with the British and were appointed to offices such as Justices of Peace.
Indians (minority)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supplied labour for the plantations and mines ● Kept themselves separate and lived within the estates where they worked. ● Did not resist against the British

Impact of British Colonial Rule in Malaya

Political Impact

<u>Point</u>	<u>Example(s)</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Transfer of power from local rulers to British Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the sultans and chiefs, who were marginalised, were employed to assist in state administration where government policies such as those dealing with tax collection and currency reforms were initiated in Malaya for the first time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a greater standardisation of laws and a better organisation of local defence forces, which promoted greater political stability as the locals were less likely to challenge a government that was backed by the British.

Economic Impacts

<u>Point</u>	<u>Example(s)</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Development of Tin and Rubber Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 1898, European capital and Chinese labour had transformed the FMS into the <u>world's largest producer of tin</u>, with an output of 40,000 tonnes. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <u>demand for rubber was especially high</u> from the late 19th century onwards due to the <u>growth of the automobile industry</u>. Stable conditions created by British rule enabled <u>increased rubber cultivation</u>. By the early 20th century, <u>rubber surpassed tin as Malaya's most profitable export</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <u>large companies were led by European entrepreneurs</u>, who, with large sums of capital, were <u>able to purchase the latest and most sophisticated equipment for mass excavation of tin</u>. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>More European capital was invested in large plantation estates managed by European planters as investors profited most from the rubber industry</u>.
Creation of an export-oriente	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the pre-colonial period, Malaya's economy was <u>mainly subsistence-based</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the pre-colonial period, the people were <u>largely</u>

<p>d economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under British rule, it became <u>export-oriented</u>, supplying <u>cash crops and raw materials</u> globally. 	<p><u>unaffected by the prices of goods</u> but under British rule, they had to depend on <u>wages or income directly linked to the prices of products that rose and fell according to global demand</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This later caused Malaya to be <u>affected by world economic crises</u> like the Great Depression.
<p>Development of Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure such as new roads and harbours were <u>built to connect the tin mines and rubber plantations</u>. • In 1885, when the <u>first railway line opened</u>, it <u>connected Taiping in Larut, Perak to Port Weld</u>. • When FMS was formed in 1896, <u>four railway lines were already in operation</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These developments <u>facilitated the tin and rubber industries and created jobs</u> in industries such as transportation.
<p>Standardisation of Currencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the 19th century, <u>different types of currencies were used</u> in various parts of Malaya. • <u>In the Straits Settlements, the Spanish dollar was in use</u> for a long time <u>alongside local coins</u> such as the Kelantan keping and the Penang dollar. • <u>Private banks also issued notes of their own</u>. • In 1899, the <u>British established a Currency Board to standardise and regulate the currencies</u>. • In 1903, a <u>Straits dollar was introduced</u> and was used in the Straits Settlements, the FMS and the UFMS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the Currency Board was established, <u>notes could only be issued by the Board and all private bank notes were replaced with the Currency Board notes</u>. • The British introduced the Straits dollar as they <u>felt the need for a standard unit of currency for trade which they could control</u>. • After the currency was standardised, <u>greater foreign capital flowed into Malaya for investment</u> into tin mines and rubber

		plantations.
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Social Impacts

<u>Point</u>	<u>Example(s)</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Marginalisation of Indigenous Malays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <u>majority of indigenous Malays</u> lived in <u>rural villages</u>. • During the British rule, <u>many Chinese and Indian immigrants came to Malaya to work</u> in the mines and plantations. • <u>People from other parts of the Peninsula also migrated</u> to these areas to seek work. • The <u>population sizes of the Chinese and Indians in some of these places increased</u> so much that <u>indigenous Malays became the minority ethnic group</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The British tried to <u>protect Malay interests through Malay Land Reservation System</u> that defined lands reserved for the Malays and could not be sold to <u>non-Malays</u>, to ensure the <u>Malays did not lose all their land</u>. • It <u>increased division of society along racial lines</u> and <u>created tensions between the ethnic groups</u>, flaring into racial riots later.
Social Divide due to Limited Access to Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western education was <u>only available to the wealthy or Malay aristocrats</u> who served in administrative positions. • <u>Few children of Chinese workers had access to education</u>, often 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The British's <u>little efforts to provide education for the common people</u> created an <u>educated elite</u> that was <u>segregated from the masses</u>.

	<p><u>only due to the efforts of philanthropists</u> who set up Chinese schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plantation workers were expected to provide schools</u> for the Indian workers' children but they <u>usually neglected to do so.</u> 	
Creation of a Plural Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under British rule, <u>more Chinese came to Malay to work in the mining towns and cities.</u> • A few of the Chinese who stayed, such as Yap Ah Loy (<i>Al-loy... Chemistry ref. :/</i>), <u>went on to form a wealthy middle class of traders.</u> • Southern Indian immigrant workers also sought work in Malaya and were <u>usually recruited to work in the rubber plantations or as labourers.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although immigrants <u>wished to return home after a few years of working</u> in Malaya, many of them <u>eventually stayed on and became wealthy traders and money-lenders.</u>
Urbanisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before British rule, the <u>indigenous people lived in rural villages or small towns.</u> Malaya was <u>fairly under-populated.</u> • During British rule, <u>towns and cities were created</u> and were usually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>creation of towns and cities was a key feature of British rule.</u> These cities and towns, such as Kuala Lumpur, <u>grew into fairly large cities later.</u>

	<p><u>concentrated in the richer states of Perak and Selangor where most of the developments in tin were occurring.</u></p>	
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