

“The Malayan Union was a good idea for the people of Malaya.” Use Sources A– E to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.

For the assertion to be true, it would mean that the Malayan Union benefited the people of Malaya. Some of the sources support the assertion that the Malayan Union was an idea which would benefit the people, however other sources suggest otherwise. Sources B and D support the assertion that the Malayan Union was beneficial to the citizens of Malaya. On the other hand, sources A, C and E oppose the assertion, as they suggest that the Malayan Union was a bad idea. **GOOD!**

Source B and D support the given assertion as they show that the Malayan Union had garnered the support of both the British and the Malay community in Malaya. Source B states that “The British Crown must provide the common link which will draw together the communities of Malaya and promote a sense of common interests and the development of common institutions. “ This suggests that the Malayan Union was good as it would allow the government to develop Malaya more effectively and successfully, as the government can make laws for the entirety of Malaya. Source D suggests that the “semi-educated natives” “appreciate the good points and advantages derived from such an arrangement.” and that “such a proposal would have the unanimous support and agreement of not only the sons of the, but also the other races residing” Therefore, source D suggests that the people living in Malaya had a positive attitude towards the Malayan union.

Upon deeper analysis, it reveals that the sources B and D are not very credible. Source B is not very credible as it is a rather one-sided viewpoint. Source B is an extract from the British government proposals. Therefore, it would be in favour of the Malayan Union which was proposed by the British, and hence it presents a biased viewpoint. Source D is also not credible as it contains vested interests. Source D is an article by a Malay Rajah, who would be able to get special privileges and rights should he support the British administration in setting up the Malayan Union. He would then be inclined to publish statements which are in support of the British for his own benefits. Therefore, sources B and D are not credible due to the inherent biases.

Sources A, C and E oppose the given assertion, as they suggest that the Malayan Union was a bad idea. Source A is a photograph of a rally in Johor Bahru, which was published in Singapore on 24 May 1946. A man holding up a sign that says “Down with Malayan Union” can be seen standing behind the Dato and the British MPs.

Source A highlights the lack of support for the Malayan Union from the people, as they had staged a rally to oppose the Malayan Union.

Source C states that "Plans to set up a Malayan Union were criticised by speakers from all parties." This suggests that the people were opposed to the Malayan Union. Source C also stated that "They said that intimidation by the British Government had led the sultans of the Malay states to sign away their sovereignty." This suggests that the people of the Malaya were not willingly accepting the Malayan union, but instead coerced into accepting it, which implies that the Malayan Union was not in the best interest of the people of Malaya.

Source E states that "The Malays of this country will never accept a Malayan Union." and that UMNO had decided to send "a delegation of three representatives to England to present the case of the people against the Malayan Union." This suggests that the people of Malaya were strongly opposed to the Malayan Union.

Upon deeper analysis, Source A is rather credible because it is a photograph that shows what was truly happening on the day of the meeting of the Dato and British MP to discuss the Malayan Union. SOURCE A IS ALSO SUPPORTED BY SOURCE C WHICH TELLS US THAT... Source C is credible, as even though it is an American newspaper, it does not support the British whom America was allies with but instead exposed the coercion of the British government towards the Sultans. Source E is also credible as it was a speech by the Dato Onn bin Jafaar himself, and it would accurately portray the viewpoints of the people regarding the Malayan union at that time. Therefore, sources A, C and E, which oppose the hypothesis, are relatively more credible than the sources B and D which support the hypothesis.

In conclusion, the sources are stronger in challenging the hypothesis than they are in supporting it. Contextually, the Malayan Union was a British attempt to consolidate political power in the immediate post war period upon their return to Malaya, but it was almost immediately rejected by the vocal local Malay community. THIS IS SEEN IN SOURCES A & C) While the Malayan Union was a good idea for the people as it would centralise decision making and recognised the contributions of other races by giving them citizenship right, the Malayan Union was not beneficial for Malay rights in Malaya. The sources (B & D?) that challenge the hypothesis support this assertion and are rather credible. Therefore, the sources are stronger in challenging the hypothesis that the Malayan Union was a good idea for the people of Malaya, than they are in supporting it.