

Know Your History – Yet, Malaysians Don't Learn When We Were Colonised By The British. We Are Ignorami.

By Matthias Chang – Future Fast-Forward

A Provocation

Politicians, especially parliamentarians, hate my guts for exposing their ignorance and their oversized egos, their inflated sense of abilities and worth and their misperception or belief that they are superior to others, exhibiting a self-centered attitude and a strong desire for admiration and attention. Ouch!!!

Ask them, what they do when visiting England and their swift and short reply – “Are you an idiot, of course, shopping at Oxford Street at Selfridges and the Harrods at Brompton Road, Knightbridge”!

The British Parliament - the Mother of all Parliaments?

The British Museum - housing the plunders of the British Empire?

The Natural History Museum – discoveries down memory lane?

The Tate Galleries - (four galleries), for a bit of cultural appreciation?

Their blank faces glare at you as if you are an alien from Mars, but these politicians forget that Malaysians were brainwashed at a young age to recite and remember:

"Land of Hope and Glory"

The Coronation Ode, lyrics by A.C. Benson

*Land of Hope and Glory, Mother of the Free,
How shall we extol thee, who are born of thee?
Wider still and wider shall thy bounds be set;
God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet;
God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet.*

Follow Up

This short article is a follow-up of my WhatsApp message sent out yesterday evening, directed at politicians, on how boundaries of countries and flags were created, and a **peep into the recent history of our country.**

There was no “Malaya” before 1957. There was no “Malaysia” before 1963. Sarawak and Sabah were British Crown colonies prior to the formation of Malaysia!

Before “Malaya” there were the “**Straits Settlements**” comprising, the Crown colonies of Penang, Singapore, Malacca, and Labuan, established or taken over by the **British East India Company**.

Students, when asked, “Who founded Penang or Singapore?” their answers as brainwashed, were Sir Francis Light and Sir Stamford Raffles respectively. Francis Light was a British Royal Navy officer and explorer best known for founding the colony of Penang and its capital city of George Town in 1786. Light was the father of William Light, who founded the city of Adelaide in South Australia in 1836 and Sir Thomas Stamford Bingley Raffles FRS FRAS was a British colonial official who served as the governor of the Dutch East Indies between 1811 and 1816 and lieutenant-governor of Bencoolen between 1818 and 1824 ([Wikipedia](#)).

No student was told to ask, “For which British Monarch?”

A Comparative Analysis

Did you know the following historical facts?

The Natural History Museum clarified that:

*Researchers found that the arrival of Europeans between 400 and 800 CE, including **the Angles from which the word England is derived**, accounted for 76% of the genetics of the British population at this time. While subsequent arrivals have diluted this proportion in the genetics of modern-day Britons, it still represents around half of the ancestry of people in Eastern England today. This decreases in the southwest of England, Wales and Scotland, where the contribution from the ancient Celtic populations remains high.*

Britannica, the encyclopedic mouth-piece of the British Empire, recounts that:

Anglo-Saxon, term used historically to describe any member of the **Germanic peoples** who, from the 5th century CE to the time of the Norman Conquest (1066), inhabited and ruled territories that are today part of England and Wales. The Anglo-Saxons were a **mix of tribes** from **Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands**. **The three biggest were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes**. **The land they settled in became known as 'Angle-land', or England**. **They brought Germanic languages and new customs and dress**.

*Archaeological evidence suggests that the first migrants from the Germanic areas of mainland Europe included settlers from Frisia and antedated the Roman withdrawal from Britain about 410 CE. Their subsequent settlements in what is now England laid the foundation for the later kingdoms of Essex, Sussex, and Wessex (Saxons); East Anglia, Middle Anglia, Mercia, and Northumbria (Angles); and Kent (Jutes). **Ethnically, the Anglo-Saxons actually represented an admixture of Germanic peoples with Britain's pre-existing Celtic inhabitants and subsequent Viking and Danish invaders**.*

The term Anglo-Saxon seems to have been first used by Continental writers in the late 8th century to distinguish the Saxons of Britain from those of the European continent, whom St. Bede the Venerable had called *Antiqui Saxones* ("Old Saxons"). The name formed part of a title, *rex Angul-Saxonum* ("king of the Anglo-Saxons"), which was sometimes used by King Alfred of Wessex (reigned 871–99) and some of his successors. **By the time of the Norman Conquest, the kingdom that had developed from the realm of the Anglo-Saxon peoples had become known as England, and Anglo-Saxon as a collective term for the region's people was eventually supplanted by "English."** For some time thereafter, Anglo-Saxon persisted as an informal synonym for English, but that use diminished **as emigrants from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and other areas beyond northern Europe further reshaped Britain's ethnic composition.**

A nation and then an Empire of **Immigrants** ('Pendatang' in the Malay language)!

And Najib Razak, a former Prime Minister, prides himself as having a "Bugis" ancestry. He admitted during question time in parliament, as reported on October 12th, 2017.

P. Gunasegara wrote that,

"when Prime Minister Najib Razak claimed to be a Bugis warrior whose ancestors came from Sulawesi, Indonesia, he admitted that his forefathers migrated here and were immigrants. In other words, according to the use of the term by politicians from his party, he is a 'pendatang' or immigrant, no matter that generations of his family were Malaysian. If that were true, it means his father, Malaysia's second prime minister, also was Bugis and therefore a pendatang. So would be Malaysia's first prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman who has Siamese origins, third prime minister Hussein Onn who has Turkish blood..."

Gunasegaram concluded with these words,

*"Much like how Martin Luther King emphatically destroyed the word "black" as a derogatory reference to negroes once and for all. "I am black and proud of it. Black is beautiful," he cried out in his **landmark speech** in 1967. And now blacks refer to themselves as black and are proud to be black and to be referred to as such. If by pendatang you mean my ancestors came from elsewhere but made this country their own, yes, I am a pendatang and proud of it. And by God, so are you - be proud of it, don't deny it, don't distort history. Just recognise that this country is ours - not yours or mine but ours, for better or for worse..."*

Take note, the bullet points below:

- **America:** There was no America or the United States of America before 1776. There were 13 colonies of the British Empire before the Declaration of Independence.
- **Yugoslavia** was formed in 1918 immediately after World War I as the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. It was commonly referred to at the time as a "Versailles State". Later, King Alexander I renamed the country to Yugoslavia in 1929



Yugoslavia, 1919–92 The historical boundaries of Yugoslavia from 1919 to 1992.

- Austria-Hungary** - The official name of the state shaped by the Ausgleich was Austria-Hungary. The kingdom of Hungary had a name, a king, and a history of its own. **The rest of the empire was a casual agglomeration without even a clear description. Technically, it was known as “the kingdoms and lands represented in the Reichsrat” or, more shortly, as “the other Imperial half.”** The mistaken practice soon grew of describing this nameless unit as “Austria” or “Austria proper” or “the lesser Austria”—names all strictly incorrect until the title “empire of Austria” was restricted to “the other Imperial half” in 1915. **These confusions had a simple cause: the empire of Austria with its various fragments was the dynastic possession of the house of Habsburg, not a state with any common consciousness or purpose (Britannica). See Map**



Austria-Hungary, 1914

See also the Map below



Map by Wikipedia

- Indonesia:** located off the coast of mainland Southeast Asia in the Indian and Pacific oceans, Indonesia was formerly known as the Dutch East Indies (or Netherlands East Indies). Although Indonesia did not become the country's official name until the time of independence, the name was used as early as 1884 by a German geographer; it is thought to derive from the Greek *indos*, meaning "India," and *nesos*, meaning "island." In 1811 Java fell to a British East India Company force under Baron Minto, governor-general of India, who, after the surrender, appointed Thomas Stamford Raffles lieutenant governor. Raffles approached his task with the conviction that British administrative principles, modeled in part on those developed in Bengal, could liberate the Javanese from the tyranny of Dutch methods; he believed that liberal economic principles and the cessation of compulsory cultivation could simultaneously expand Javanese agricultural production, improve revenue, and make the island a market for British goods. Along with his liberalism, Raffles brought to his task a respect for Javanese society. Before his appointment he had been a student of Malay literature and culture and during his period in Batavia (Jakarta).

After a period of occupation by the Japanese (1942–45) during World War II, Indonesia declared its independence from the Netherlands in 1945. Its struggle for independence, however, continued until 1949, when the Dutch officially recognized Indonesian sovereignty. It was not until the United Nations (UN) acknowledged the western segment of New Guinea as part of Indonesia in 1969 that the country took on its present form.

The above Bullet-Points serve to **illustrate how empires, nations, peoples were divided and established**. This article is not a thesis but a **peep** into the past so that we may understand the present better.

So, wake up and think why President Trump has his eyes on Greenland, Canada and the Panama Canal in his second term of office and why I am not in the least surprised.

I learn from history. You must do the same!